

# Amber inspirations



POMORSKIE



Pomorskie Tourist Board

# Amber inspirations





## The modern Amber Route is a unique journey through centuries of tradition that has had a tremendous impact on Poland's region of Pomorskie (Pomerania).

There are numerous events for tourists from all around the world to enjoy: museum exhibitions, educational workshops, amber crafting presentations, fashion shows and trade fairs or mass outdoor events. And last but not least, solid weekend offers focusing on amber are a strength of the region and make it stand out.

The Amber Route does not form a uniform line but its most interesting landmarks in the Pomorskie Region have been marked out for you. There are several thematic tours worth taking to places associated with amber. The greatest number of those are located in Gdańsk, for that reason the city is called the World Capital of Amber.





# Amber

Amber is the hardened fossil resin of trees, one of over 130 kinds that can be found all around the world. They differ by place, age and the tree of origin. Baltic amber was formed more than 40 million years ago. Its largest deposits are located under the seabed of the Bay of Gdańsk. It is the only fossil resin to contain from 3% to 8% of succinic acid, which is a natural catalyst for cell metabolism, making it beneficial for health.



Natural amber is characterized by the richness of colour and variety of types. The varied colour palette and different degrees of transparency were created by the conditions to which the amber was exposed while travelling between deposits. Basking in the sun among the dunes, weathering in the sand, going through changes in humidity or being compressed by a glacier, amber in a natural way gained those features that are now desired and even artificially induced in order to satisfy popular demand.

Its unique characteristics have mesmerized people since the prehistoric era. The Neolithic saw amber mining on a large scale, evidence of which was discovered at archaeological sites associated with the people that inhabited Pomerania 4,500 years ago. This may be considered the beginning of the Amber Route, understood as the general direction in which local goods were exchanged with peoples living in the south. It was not a road in a direct sense of the word but a set of trading routes by which amber was delivered from the coast of the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean. The greatest number of artefacts from old, amber routes, which stretched from the Baltic to the Adriatic, date back to the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries CE, when the Roman equestrian (knight) Julianus set off to and reached the Baltic Sea in search for amber. At that time, before the Migration Period had begun, the amber routes were established and with them Roman culture and customs reached deep into the northern part of the European continent. For many centuries, amber was extremely popular and the demand for it was soaring, not only among the indigenous peoples of the Baltic Sea coast, but also the Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks and Romans.

In large parts of Europe today, from the Baltic States to Greece and Italy, efforts are made to recreate the course of this important trade route and reconstruct its history. Serving this purpose are numerous museums, settlement reconstructions, such as the Austrian Carnuntum or the Faktoria in Pruszcz Gdański, Poland, as well as various historical reenactments and shows.



## Gdańsk

The oldest traces of amber workshops in Gdańsk date back to the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. By then, amber goods and the mineral in its raw form were sold to other cities in Poland and Flanders. The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries mark the heyday of amber handicraft in Gdańsk, with local workshops crafting numerous amber art pieces commissioned by rich townspeople, nobility, clergy and kings of Poland. Artefacts made here reached royal courts all across Europe and were considered the most valuable diplomatic gifts for popes, tsars, sultans and caliphs, as well as the rulers of the greatest European nations.

Gdańsk is known as the World Capital of Amber and concentrates more than 70% of the world's amber manufacture. Gdańsk-made products stand out with their contemporary form and are known for being of the highest quality. Every year, Gdańsk hosts Amberif and Ambermart, the most important trade fairs in the amber industry, as well as the Forum of the Amber Route Cities and meetings of the World Amber Council.

One of Gdańsk's most inspiring museums is the Museum of Amber. Lovers of the decorative arts can take a stroll down the streets of the "Amber Fifth Avenue": Mariacka, Długa, Długi Targ (Long Market) and Długie Pobrzeże (Long Riverfront), where several dozen shops and galleries offer unique amber jewellery and other ornamental items. The Gdańsk's authorities also support the Amber Studio of the Academy of Fine Arts by taking part in the "Trendbook" project. "Trendbook" is developed in partnership with the International Amber Association and its goal is to organize information required for forecasting stylistic trends and using this knowledge in the design of amber jewellery. Public figures who visit Gdańsk receive amber gifts, with celebrity recipients including: David Gilmour, Günter Grass, Jean-Michel Jarre, Lura and Rod Stewart.



## Gdynia

The largest amber workshop in Poland, Manufaktura S&A, is located here. Apart from producing amber jewellery, it has opened its premises to organized tourist groups by offering "Amber Emotions", a remarkable tour of the facilities. There, you can listen to the story of amber, see and learn to tell the difference between fake and real Baltic amber, touch it and learn about its properties. Orłowo, the artistic district of Gdynia, has strong connections to amber as well. Here, spending his holiday in a fishing hut, the famous Polish writer Stefan Żeromski discovered amber and showed his fascination with it in his novel "Wiatr od morza" ("Wind from the Sea"). Today, the so-called Żeromski's House is home to Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Orłowa (the Friends of Orłowo Society), which is known for its activities in culture and education. For some time now, the students of the local Art School have been discovering the secrets of macro scale amber photography. Once captured, the images of the subtleties inside an amber nugget, the shape of its organic inclusions and the surface structure of each unique piece of amber that will inevitably weather, help us to understand the continuity of nature and its processes.

## Słupsk

The exact date that an amber guild was established in Słupsk is unknown. What is known is that it was one of the first amber guilds in Pomerania and had been formed before the year 1477, which was the date that the Gdańsk amber guild was established. The first amber craftsmen settled in the city by the River Stupia in 1534.





It is highly probable that the local guild was established in 1450, at which time the craftsmen were customarily called Paternostermacher (rosary makers), indicating the kind of wares that they manufactured. In time, they became famous for creating amber fork and knife handles.

For several years now, the city has had a new mascot. The Lucky Bear (Niedźwiadek Szczęścia) can be found during the summer season by the City Hall, handing candy out to children. Lately, the APR Ziemia Słupska regional promotion agency has been introducing amber wares with an effigy of a bear – talisman replicas of various sizes, jewellery, ornaments and everyday items.

The Bear is the city's lucky charm. The amber figurine of a bear was found in the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, according to researchers, it is a bear hunter's talisman that dates back about 6,000 years. The original sculpture is kept in a museum in Stralsund, while an exact copy by a local artist is held on display in the City Hall.



## Sopot

A truly artistic city, Sopot is a home to modern amber jewellery design. The studio of the famous amber craftsman Lucjan Myrta is located here. Out of natural amber, Mr Myrta crafts wonderful items, full of amazing images and meticulously carved sculptures. Bogdan Mirowski, another great amber artist and creator of the Amber Nightingale – the Sopot Music Festival award statuette, used to work in Sopot as well. The Ambermoda Gallery, in turn, is simply stunning with its grand exhibitions, design, as well as amazing forms and combinations of amber with other gemstones and natural materials.



## Pruszcz Gdański

A city where history and tradition meet the here and now.

In the twilight of the ancient world, the area of Pruszcz Gdański was chosen as a site for an important trading post. This excellent location at the intersection of several land and sea trade routes was a place where foreign merchants supplied themselves with various goods, including raw amber. Soon the trading post (Faktoria) in Pruszcz Gdański had become a commercial hub for the settlements between Tczew and Gdańsk, as well as for all of Eastern Pomerania. A significant portion of the profits was generated through the sale of amber goods, which triggered the development of numerous workshops. In 2011, a reconstruction of the trading post was opened, which presents not only the lives of the former inhabitants of Pomerania, but also offers museum classes, demonstrates centuries-old crafts and is one of the city's cultural and educational centres.

## Stegna

Stegna municipality is one of the most scenic and interesting places on the Vistula Spit. Surrounded by the waters of the River Vistula, the River Szkarpawa and the Baltic Sea, it is reminiscent of an island. During the summer, Stegna and its surroundings are an attractive tourist spot, owing to their attractive location, unique microclimate and breathtaking landscapes. The municipality's greatest assets are its sandy beaches rich in amber and sand dunes grown over with pine forests. Tourism is developing mainly in the area of the Vistula Spit, where the four main towns of the municipality are located: Stegna, Janoszyń, Jantar and Mikoszewo.

Visiting Stegna, Jantar and Mikoszewo in the summer, you can participate in various events, fairs, concerts, volleyball and football tournaments. Every year, Jantar holds the Amber Fishing World Championships. The town's Amber Museum displays magnificent specimens of amber nuggets as well as amber artefacts. Many citizens of the municipality are involved in the tough and dangerous profession of amber fishing.





## Museums

Amber is not only about jewellery, but also the excitement of the tourist experience with a variety of thought-provoking museums. Thematic exhibitions show the origin and history of amber, as well as different ways of how it can be crafted and used. The many different workshops and demonstrations of amber handicraft simply cannot be missed.



## Exhibitions and open-air events

Gdańsk is called the World Capital of Amber for a reason. It is here, every spring and autumn, that Amberif and Ambermart, the largest amber trade fairs, take place, with each edition being a very special event for the amber community and buyers from around the globe. Diverse agenda, inspiring exhibitions and side events turn this seemingly business-only occasion into a real tourist magnet, both locally and internationally. Amber plays a significant part in such important events as St Dominic's Fair, the Mariacka Street Festival and many other projects which keenly feature this precious mineral.

## Jewellery

Amber is usually associated with jewellery art and craft. However, it can surprise you with a variety of forms and shapes, as well as innovative designs. It is not so important if a design is traditional or modern; what counts is for the material to be genuine. This is why, while being in amber store, it is important that you ask for certificates of authenticity or the Amber Passport, which is a consumer guide that proves the authenticity of the goods you purchase and guarantees compliance with best consumer practices.



## Fashion

Amber is everywhere! In the world of fashion, it serves as a unique accessory, as well as a leitmotif in the collections by the top Polish fashion designers. The Amber and Fashion Gala has always been the most anticipated event of the Amberif International Fair of Amber, Jewellery and Gemstones in Gdańsk. The Gala features cutting-edge bold designs, a wealth of inspirations, associations, materials and styles to prove how timeless amber – the Gold of the Baltic – really is. Over the years, amber has become an intrinsic part of such events as the Sopot Fashion Days and open-air fashion shows.





## Design

Innovative design, diverse jewellery and amazing everyday items are the new face of amber that has been gaining prominence all over the world. Today, amber is more than just a couple of beads threaded on a string. Combined with gold, silver, diamonds or other gemstones, as well as other natural materials such as leather sheet or leather cord, it can create remarkably beautiful compositions. More and more items of everyday use and exclusive accessories are crafted with amber: powder-compacts, chess pieces or even amber-encased flash memory sticks are only some of them. The thriving Jewellery Design Studio at the Gdańsk Academy of Fine Arts is lead by the renowned and celebrated designer, Professor Stawomir Fijałkowski. The annual "Trendbook", published in partnership with the Academy, sums up and presents the current world design trends.

## Galleries

The famous Amber Fifth Avenue is a picturesque part of Gdańsk which includes Mariacka and Długa Streets, and the Długie Pobrzeże riverfront. The numerous workshops and galleries that are located here offer amber jewellery in all shapes and colours, along with the opportunity to watch the artisans at work.

The craftsmanship of Gdańsk-based amber artists is known and appreciated all over the world. Some of their creations include the famous Amber Room in St Petersburg or the Amber Altar at St Bridget's Basilica in Gdańsk. Every city in the Pomorskie Region has its amber masters, goldsmiths and jewellery designers who, in their galleries, present unique ornaments, sculptures and also larger amber pieces such as chandeliers, clocks or coffer.





Present-day amber fisher on the Vistula Spit



# The Amber Museum

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Gdańsk

The city's most cutting-edge museum and at the same time – the most interesting exhibition in the region that presents the origin, qualities, mining and crafting of amber. Housed in a medieval building, the exhibition showcases a large number of historical and contemporary pieces of amber art and jewellery. The building, the Foregate Complex of Długa Street, is located at the crossroads of the city's tourist routes. Its three main segments are: the Prison Tower, the Neck (passageway) with the Jailhouse and the Torture House. It was a crucial element of the city's medieval fortifications. One of the assets of the museum is its modern feel and the avant-garde arrangement of the display within the historical interiors. With its extensive use of multimedia, you can find yourself in the middle of an amber forest, feel the scent of the amber or see an amber fashion show. **Be advised:** the building does not accommodate people with disabilities.

Gdańsk / Targ Węglowy 26

T: (+48) 58 301 47 33 / [bursztyn@mhmg.gda.pl](mailto:bursztyn@mhmg.gda.pl) / [www.mhmg.gda.pl/bursztyn](http://www.mhmg.gda.pl/bursztyn)



## TICKETS

Adult: 10 zł / Discount: 5 zł / Family: 20 zł /  
Group: 4/9 zł / School: 1 zł



## OPENING HOURS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Summer season	9-13		9-16		10-18		9-16
Winter season	-	10-13	10-16	10-18	10-16		11-16



# The Archaeological Museum

11

## Gdańsk

The "With Amber through the Millennia" exhibition shows amber's role in nature and in human culture. The first amber exhibition in the post-WWII history of Poland, it introduces the origin of amber and its deposits, the ways to identify amber and different mineral types. On display are natural amber forms, unique varieties of Baltic amber (succinite), along with plant and animal inclusions.

You can also follow the Amber Route and admire some of the archaeological finds it has yielded: amber artefacts and crafting tools. The oldest items in the collection date as far back as the Mesolithic Period (8000 – 4500 BCE). The exhibits are remarkable in their simplicity, fantastically creative and are the best testimony to the development of imagination, pursuit of beauty and the constant perfecting of amber handicraft throughout the ages. The exhibition concludes with the display of modern handicraft from the Gdańsk area.

Gdańsk / Mariacka 25/26 / T: (+48) 58 32 22 100

[mag@archeologia.pl](mailto:mag@archeologia.pl) / [www.archeologia.pl](http://www.archeologia.pl)





### TICKETS

Adult: 8zł / Discount: 6zł / Family: 15/20zł



### OPENING HOURS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
 Summer season	-	9-17				10-17	
 Winter season	-	8-16	9-17	8-16		10-16	



# The "Blue Lion" Archaeological Education Centre

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Gdańsk

## The "Medieval Hanseatic Street" exhibition.

The branch of the Archaeological Museum houses a reconstruction of a Hanseatic city street from the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries with numerous workshops, stands and a bathhouse, all accompanied by characteristic noises and smells. It also features a remarkable reconstruction of a medieval amber workshop, which presents amber crafting tools, the mineral in its raw form and amber waste.

The "Blue Lion" is proud to be a place that is also suited for people with disabilities. Visitors can touch the exhibits, try on various costumes and participate in mini-archaeological digs. Multimedia resources (videos, computer presentations) are also available, while the scents and sounds of a Medieval Hanseatic street allow for a unique, time-travel-like experience.

Gdańsk / Chmielna 53 / T: (+48) 58 320 31 88

cea@archeologia.pl / [www.blekitnylew.pl](http://www.blekitnylew.pl)



## TICKETS

Adult: 10 zł / Discount: 8 zł / Family: 20/26 zł



## OPENING HOURS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Summer season	-				10-18		
Winter season	-				9-17		





# The Museum of Amber Inclusions

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Gdańsk

The "Life in the Amber Forest" exhibition is situated in the building of the University of Gdańsk, Faculty of Biology. It shows the second largest collection of amber inclusions in Poland: more than 5,500 specimens with over 13,000 animal inclusions. They are complemented by natural and colour varieties of Baltic amber, alongside various kinds of fossil and contemporary resins from all over the world. The exhibition presents the richness of amber-embedded life forms, popularized by Steven Spielberg's movie "Jurassic Park". The collection is of scientific character and therefore only selected items are on display.

University of Gdańsk, Faculty of Biology  
Gdańsk / Wita Stwosza 59 / T: (+48) 58 523 61 80  
[bursztyń@biol.ug.edu.pl](mailto:bursztyń@biol.ug.edu.pl) / [www.muzeum.gda.pl](http://www.muzeum.gda.pl)



## TICKETS

free admission



## OPENING HOURS

Mon-Sun: 9-18

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The largest amber deposits are located under the Bay of Gdańsk seabed. The name "Baltic Amber" also refers to amber found in Saxony (Germany), western Ukraine and the Lublin Region of Poland.



# The "Faktoria" International Baltic Culture Park

08

## Pruszcz Gdański

The Amber Route used to run through Pruszcz Gdański from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, when a trading post was located within the present-day city limits. According to archaeological finds, this ancient stronghold was the northernmost tip of the Amber Route as one of the most important trading centres by the Baltic Sea. The reconstruction of the Trading Post (Faktoria) and the International Amber Route from the time of the Roman influence is a unique countrywide tourism and archaeology project. "Faktoria" includes a museum exhibition – the Chieftain's Hut with a museum exhibition and the Market Hall, a place to see live archaeology in action. The reconstructions of the Amber Jeweller's Hut and the Blacksmith's Hut have been conceived as a combination of modern technology with a plethora of archaeological artefacts and the beauty of amber exhibits. The result is an extremely interesting facility that lets you both relax and learn about everyday life 2000 years ago.

Pruszcz Gdański / Zastawna (entrance: Grunwaldzka Street)

T: (+48) 58 682 22 06 / [biuro@faktoria-pruszcz.pl](mailto:biuro@faktoria-pruszcz.pl) / [www.faktoria-pruszcz.pl](http://www.faktoria-pruszcz.pl)



### TICKETS

Adult: 9 zł / Discount: 6 zł / Family: 20 zł /  
Tour guide (group of 30 or less): 180 zł



### OPENING HOURS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Summer season	-	VII, VIII: 11-18 / VI, IX: 9-17				VII, VIII: 12-20 / VI, IX: 11-18	
Winter season	-	X, IV, V: 8-15 / IX-III: groups				X, IV, V: 11-17 / IX-III: 12-16	



# The Castle Museum

02

## Malbork

The amber exhibition has been on display in Malbork Castle since 1965, featuring amber items from prehistoric artefacts to modern objects. Amazing 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century coffers, altars, cutlery, chandeliers, figurines and jewellery are all masterpieces of amber art from the times of the industry's heyday. The exhibition is complemented by folk art, modern Polish design and raw amber specimens. It is Poland's largest selection of natural amber nuggets and manufactured items and one of the most famous collections in the world.

The exhibition is located in the basement of the east wing of the Middle Castle. The castle itself is a stronghold with a cubic capacity exceeding 250,000 m<sup>3</sup>. It is one of the largest extant Gothic architectural complexes in the world and the most frequented monument in the Pomorskie Region.

Malbork / Starościńska 1 / T: (+48) 55 647 08 00  
[info@zamek.malbork.pl](mailto:info@zamek.malbork.pl) / [www.zamek.malbork.pl](http://www.zamek.malbork.pl)



### TICKETS

**Summer season** // Adult: 39,5 zł / Discount: 29,5 zł

**Winter season** // A: 29,5 zł / D: 20,5 zł

**Tour guide** // A: 31,5 - 47,5 zł / D: 21,5 - 37,5 zł / Group: 210 - 245 zł



### OPENING HOURS

Summer season

Mon-Sun: 9-19

Winter season

Mon-Sun: 10-15





## The “Amber Room” Museum

05

### Stegna

The exhibition shows the most interesting raw amber nuggets and inclusions from the private collection of the museum's owner, who has been collecting specimens for more than 15 years and at one point decided to share them with the public. The collection is located in a newly constructed building, a reconstruction of a traditional arcade house of the Żuławy region. The location is not accidental – arcade house architecture is the owner's second passion. Visit the museum to experience the collection of unique Baltic amber nuggets with insects and plants trapped inside, see a tree dripping with amber, an animal paw print, an amber-embedded pine needle and an imprint of tree bark from 50 million years ago. You can also learn about the history of the lost “Amber Room” and amber handicraft, as well as how to distinguish between fake amber and the real thing.

Stegna / Gdańska 64 / T: (+48) 55 247 85 75

[wojciech.glodzik@gmail.com](mailto:wojciech.glodzik@gmail.com) / [www.bursztynowakomnata.com](http://www.bursztynowakomnata.com)



### TICKETS

Adult: 4zł / Discount: 2zł



### OPENING HOURS

June - August

Mon-Sun: 10-19

May & September

Mon-Sun: 11-17

Silver set amber ring and necklace, by Enzo





# The A1 "Amber Highway"

01

The A1 is a North-South trans-European transport corridor (European Road E75). It begins at the coast of the Baltic Sea and ends at the Adriatic, thus running mostly along the ancient Amber Route that used to connect the amber coast of the Baltic with the civilizations of the Mediterranean. Its official name is AmberOne. In 2011, pylons with amber route signs were erected to seal the highway's name.

[www.autostradaa1.pl](http://www.autostradaa1.pl)



Amber inclusion –  
a territe in Baltic amber

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It may seem that amber inclusions are seldom to be found. However, when looking at amber nuggets under high magnification, it turns out that about 70% of them contain inclusions. They are mostly small invertebrates, the majority being insects and arachnids.



## The PGE Arena – “Amber Stadium”

14

Gdańsk

The stadium's designers were inspired by the natural beauty of the mineral and the centuries of Gdańsk's amber and maritime tradition. Out of this vision, a project was born that is considered to be one of the most beautiful sports arenas in the world. The enormous amber-coloured body of the stadium towers over the city's harbour district, to become not only its contemporary symbol, but also a unique beacon. The post-industrial district, where the stadium is located, is quickly transforming into a modern urban fabric and, together with the stadium's surroundings, is a must-see during the tour of the city. PGE Arena Gdańsk is a multi-functional, modern sports facility that also operates as a business and leisure centre. It is designed to host events up to 45,000 participants: football matches, concerts and other cultural and sporting events.

Gdańsk / Pokoleń Lechii Gdańsk 1

Book a tour – T: (+48) 58 76 88 444 / [tours@arenagdansk.com](mailto:tours@arenagdansk.com)

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One of the oldest sites in the modern history of amber mining is located in Mozdzanowo, a small village some 20 km northwest of Słupsk. Mozdzanowo is rich in Paleogene amber deposits that had been transported here by glacial ice sheets. Some 5 tonnes of amber were excavated there in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the amber deposits in Mozdzanowo are estimated at 20 t. There are plans to open a Mozdzanowo Mine Museum in the future.



## "Amber Drops"

15

Gdańsk

This art installation received recognition at the 2009 Gdańsk "Outdoor Gallery International" Competition (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) for its subtle references to the significance of amber in building the local identity and a minimalist approach to the visual quality of public space. The installation uses transparent resin stones with a built-in LED lighting system. The lights glow with varying intensity, as if channelling the rhythm of a breathing person. Different modern artefacts of various shapes and sizes, such as a mobile phone, have been embedded in the resin to mimic insects trapped in amber. "Amber Drops" is a permanent, site-specific installation located in the Dolne Miasto (Low Town) district under an overpass at Szopy Street. The light pulsating from each stone and its reflexes on the metallic mirror surface of the Invisible Gate installation by Front Studio make its surroundings look alive and breathing.

The installation is located in Szopy Street, Gdańsk,  
and is overseen by the Łaźnia Centre for Contemporary Art  
Gdańsk / Jaskółcza 1  
[www.laznia.pl](http://www.laznia.pl)







## The Amber Altar and monstrance at St. Bridget's Basilica

16

Gdańsk

The Basilica is most famous for its Amber Altar, currently under construction. When finished, it will be the largest amber artefact in the world, exceeding in size even the famous Amber Room in St Petersburg, Russia. For the time being, only the central part of the altar along with the amber robe of Saint Mary's painting, elements of the supporting structure and surrounding statues have been completed. The altar was designed by Professor Stanisław Radwański in collaboration with Mariusz Drapikowski. Apart from the altar, other pieces of sacred amber art can be admired, including a monstrance, chalices, ciboria and many more. It is a votive offering made by local amber craftsmen in gratitude for Poland's independence after the events of 1980 and 1989.

St Bridget's Basilica  
Gdańsk / Profesorska 17

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The altar in the church of St. Bridget, Gdańsk, is a great modern piece of amber art. The structure will be 11 meters tall and will commemorate the 28 shipyard workers killed in the events of December 1970 in Gdańsk. The now completed monstrance is 2 metres tall.



## Niedźwiedziówka, Niedźwiedzica

03

### Niedźwiedziówka

Located between Gdańsk and Elbląg, the village was a Neolithic amber crafting centre that operated in the delta of the River Vistula from 3200 to 2400 BCE. At that time, it was located at the mouth of the river's distributary on a flooded sea shore; today, it lies deep inland. Archaeological excavations have been carried out here since the beginning of the 1980s. They identified the region as a significant amber crafting centre, even as early as the New Stone Age.

The terrain was repeatedly flooded by the waters of the Vistula Lagoon, which deposited amber on its shores. This allowed local craftsmen to collect and craft it from the spring to late autumn. Amber was also brought in from the shores of the Bay of Gdańsk. An estimated 900 amber workshops operated there within an area of 1 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it the largest and oldest known amber crafting centre in the world.

Amber from Niedźwiedziówka found its way deep into what is now Poland and, often through commercial exchange, into the south of Europe as well. Trade triggered an increased interest in amber in the south, which later led to its introduction into the Mycenaean culture during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE. The most famous Mycenaean leader was Agamemnon, the legendary participant of the Trojan War.

Archaeological excavations take place here every July; it is also the time when the world-famous amber crafting centre can be visited.

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The most common varieties of amber are usually opaque and yellow. Shades of white, blue and green are rare. Intensely green colour is an optical illusion created by painting the bottom of a light-coloured piece of amber black.



## "Bursztynowa Góra" (The Amber Mountain)

09

### Bąkowo

The "Bursztynowa Góra" archaeological preserve covers an area of 5.03 ha and includes a depleted open cast amber mine. Most probably, the mine was functional from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although some researchers claim the first mining operations took place in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the characteristic funnel-like pits remain in the area, with the largest one about 40 meters wide and 15 meters deep. The preserve can be reached by following a marked path from the parking lot in Bąkowo, which is located by Route 221 (Gdańsk-Kolbudy-Kościierzyna). Similar remains of a mine can be found in the forest between Sopot and the Karwiny district of Gdynia.



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Along with flint, amber is one of the oldest ornamental stones in the world. Items made over 10000 years ago, when sapphire or diamond stones were still unknown, are found in archaeological sites all over the world.





Detail of a reliquary by Michael Redlin, 1680, Castle Museum in Malbork



## "Michel Amber Manufacture"

17

Gdańsk

The company manufactures amber jewellery, which is on display in a dedicated gallery at the Długie Pobrzeże riverfront. The exhibition presents the manufacturing process, using both traditional and modern methods, as well as the history of amber and the Amber Route, inclusions and items of interest.

Gdańsk / Długie Pobrzeże 4 / T: (+48) 58 301 78 64, (+48) 58 683 43 82  
[www.ampmichel.com.pl](http://www.ampmichel.com.pl)



i

The Polish name for amber ("bursztyn") comes from German "bernstein", which means "burning rock". Its history can be traced as far back as Ancient Greece, where it was called "electron", which means "shining, radiant". Its Slavic name, "jantar", was most probably adopted from Phoenician "janitar", meaning "sea resin". The geological term "succinite" comes from the Latin word "succinum" or tree resin. It was first used in 1820 by the German geologist A. Breithaupt.



## "Styl" Gallery

18

Gdańsk

Located at the Długie Pobrzeże riverfront in Gdańsk, this gallery features not only a regular display of amber jewellery but also presentations of amber tools and techniques. In groups of approximately 10, you can take part in various presentations: lectures about amber, its history and properties, an amber crafting show (cutting, polishing, faceting, sculpting, etc.), displays of microscopic amber inclusions, methods of recognizing real amber, amber folk medicine or guidelines for amber jewellery design. You can also book an individual amber cutting session. The Gallery is owned by Zbigniew Strzelczyk – Master Amber Craftsman, Master Goldsmith and Master of Handicraft.

Gdańsk / Długie Pobrzeże 31

T/F: (+48) 58 301 43 80

T: (+48) 58 300 08 91

[galeria@amberstyl.pl](mailto:galeria@amberstyl.pl)

[www.amberstyl.pl](http://www.amberstyl.pl)



i

Millions of years ago, amber was a liquid resin and a deadly trap that flowed out of trees, luring and encasing insects that we can now admire in the form of inclusions.



## "Prestige" Amber Gallery

19

Gdańsk

In the heart of Gdańsk's Old Town, next to St Mary's Basilica, this gallery offers jewellery designed by Poland's best artists and top amber companies. The gallery also hosts individual amber art exhibitions and previews.

Gdańsk / Mariacka 44/45

T: (+48) 58 305 55 50

[kontakt@galeriaprestige.pl](mailto:kontakt@galeriaprestige.pl)

[www.galeriaprestige.pl](http://www.galeriaprestige.pl)



jewellery by Jacek Ostrowski

**i**

According to folk medicine, the smoke from amber incense destroys germs, while stringed amber beads worn around the neck prevent sore throat and headaches and also help strengthen the thyroid gland. Pounded amber powder was used as snuff, which supposedly helped clean the sinuses and cure colds. Amber is particularly valued in traditional Chinese medicine.



## "Moja Forma" Gallery

20

Gdańsk

The Gallery and design studio offers amber jewellery in combination with silver and gold. It gives you the unique opportunity to design jewellery with the assistance of a goldsmith. The "Gdańsk & Love" project provides an exclusive collection of engagement rings, including a rare combination of amber and white gold.

Gdańsk / Mariacka 46  
T: (+48) 58 305 62 06  
listy@mojaforma.com  
www.mojaforma.com



Jewellery by Maria Fijałkowska

**i**

The value of an amber nugget depends mostly on its size. However, much depends on the mineral's purity, transparency, depth of colour and shape. The most valued pieces of amber are round-shaped.





# Amber Gallery

21

Gdańsk

A prestigious gallery with years of experience in supplying the most intriguing amber jewellery. Classic designs offered alongside innovative solutions and modern compositions, including amber and diamond combinations. Lectures on the origin of amber, its mining techniques and how to tell real amber from fakes are also available at the gallery.

Gdańsk / Długi Targ 1  
T: (+48) 58 301 03 12  
[www.ambergallery.pl](http://www.ambergallery.pl)



Jewellery by Dorota Canecka

**i**

The largest amber project to date is the famous Amber Room, created at the request of Fredrick I in 1701. In 1716, Tsar Peter the Great received it as a token of friendship. Until 1941, it had been part of Tsarskoye Selo palace near St Petersburg, from where it was stolen and has never been found.



## The Amber Manufactory at the Amber Museum

22

Gdańsk

The Amber Manufactory invites you to an amber cutting show with a certified jewellery master (the presentation is about 15 minutes long). The gallery offers jewellery for sale from top designers whose work can be admired at the Museum.

Gdańsk / Targ Węglowy 26  
[www.s-a.pl](http://www.s-a.pl)



S&A

**i**

Baltic amber has a vast colour range, mainly due to small air bubbles, unseen to the naked eye. If they take up more than 50% of its volume, it becomes almost as white as snow.



## "Ambermoda"

31

Sopot

A unique gallery and workshop where goldsmiths and amber cutters can be seen at work: designing, cutting and soldering jewellery. Exhibitions of jewellery and amber art by recognized authors as well as a remarkable collection of the gallery owners' jewellery make this place even more special.

Sopot / Grunwaldzka 12-16

T: (+48) 501 414 900

mg@ambermoda.com

www.ambermoda.com



jewellery by Mariusz Gliwiński

**i**

The ancient Greeks discovered amber's electrostatic properties. When rubbed with cloth, it becomes negatively charged and attracts pieces of paper, dust, etc. The term "electricity" comes from "elektron", the Greek name for amber. Amber is also a natural insulator.





## Manufaktura "S & A"

35

Gdynia

A unique 45-minute show takes you on a journey into the modern world of amber jewellery manufacture. Join us for a guided tour of Manufaktura S&A, during which you will see the cutting and polishing facility, the handcrafting department and a showcase of ready goods. Organized groups of 10 or more are welcome, please book by phone first.

Gdynia / Św. Piotra 4

T: (+48) 695 990 073

[www.s-a.pl](http://www.s-a.pl)



S&A

**i**

More than four thousand years ago, Neolithic humans used Baltic amber for jewellery manufacture and for trade. Later, Imperial Roman emissaries, Celts and Vikings flocked to the Baltic Sea coast taking interest in amber's economic potential. Since the dawn of history, amber has been used for decoration, talismans and medication.



## "Damroka" Marian Zawadzki

37

Chłapowo

"Damroka" offers lectures on amber, its properties, varieties and inclusions. Demonstrations of cutting and polishing, and the amber & silver jewellery making process are available to organized groups.

Chłapowo / Władysławowska 56

T: (+48) 603 584 342 / [sabinaz@interia.eu](mailto:sabinaz@interia.eu)

[www.damroka.comweb.pl](http://www.damroka.comweb.pl)



**i**

Amber is the hardened fossil resin of trees; it can be found in over 200 locations all over the world. Present on all the continents except Antarctica, it is usually named after the place where it was discovered. The oldest amber can be found in 230-million-year-old Triassic rock in the Italian Dolomite Mountains.



## Danuta Burczik-Kruczkowska Amber Gallery and Workshop

04

### Kąty Rybackie

The workshop is located in a small village near the Vistula Spit, where the forces of water and wind have created a unique place on Earth – the Land of Amber. Years of work have enabled the artist to refine her own style and discover the simplicity and nature of amber. Delicately worked amber left in its original form is the trademark of Ms Burczik-Kruczkowska's jewellery. A tour of the gallery and workshop as well as amber crafting demonstrations are available by appointment.

Kąty Rybackie / Bursztynowa 8

T: (+48) 502 50 95 59

[danutakruczkowska@wp.pl](mailto:danutakruczkowska@wp.pl)

[www.kruczkowska.com](http://www.kruczkowska.com)



Jewellery by  
Danuta Burczik-Kruczkowska



The ancient belief in the beneficial effects of amber has found its justification in scientific evidence. It was discovered that succinic acid works as bio-stimulator – it is beneficial to the nervous system, may serve as an anti-inflammatory and anti-toxic agent.



## Naryczyk Kalski Amber Gallery

39

### Słupsk

Today, Gdańsk is considered to be the World Capital of Amber, even though the first amber craft guild was established in 1477 in Słupsk. The Gdańsk amber guild was established three years later. This noble tradition is one of the main topics at the Gallery where, at many interesting presentations, you can learn about the history of amber and the Słupsk guild, about myths and legends and the secrets of the Amber Room. The gallery showcases 1,000 amber hearts, more than 300 shades of amber, plant and animal specimens from more than 40 million years ago, with over 1,000 amber inclusions, 200 sculptures carved entirely in amber and about 500 natural amber forms.

Słupsk / Tuwima 9

T: (+48) 59 842 73 33 / [galeriabursztynowa@neostrada.pl](mailto:galeriabursztynowa@neostrada.pl)

[www.galeriabursztynowa.pl](http://www.galeriabursztynowa.pl)

**i**

The 16<sup>th</sup> century saw the dawn of amber mining on the coast of the Sambia Peninsula and Vistula Spit, with the first underground mine established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, the true development of mining did not start until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, other open pit mines operated in Sambia, located along the edges and at the bases of cliffs and deeper inland.



## "Agat Łukaszewscy" & "Amber Słupsk"

40

### Słupsk

The "Agat" Company was established in 1987 by master goldsmith Zbigniew Łukaszewski. Since the beginning, most of the work has been done using traditional methods, and the handcrafted items are popular and appreciated by customers. The amber jewellery is unique in design and crafted to perfection. The workshop also produces jewellery that combines amber with precious metals or ebony.

For many years, "Agat" have been cooperating with Sławomir Chowaniec, owner of the "Amber Słupsk" Company, who specializes in amber sculptures, reliefs, amber semi-products as well as tatting combined with amber beads. Sławomir Chowaniec's sculptures are usually made on request, according to designs and instructions from the client. Each project is carefully thought over to highlight and bring out amber's unique beauty.

Słupsk / Wolności 33 / T: (+48) 500 168 662

**i**

Amber is an organic substance, made up mainly of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. This makes it a flammable material that, when burning, emits a resinous scent and aromatic smoke.





## "The past embedded in amber"

43

### Świeržno

The village of Świeržno in Miastko municipality is home to a unique amber workshop. Established by Erwin and Alicja Witrambowski, it has been operating since 1989. Every year, groups of tourists, mainly from Germany, flock to Świeržno to purchase ready-made goods. Mr. Witrambowski sets his amber in exotic wood straight from Africa and Brazil. When creating a piece, he follows the natural colour of the wood and its growth rings to complement the amber perfectly. Rather than varnished, the wood is polished with paste wax. The unique combination of amber and wood produces genuine masterpieces of art – earrings, necklaces, bracelets and more, desired by women from Germany, the USA, Japan and recently even China. Ladies also adore pendants with original wooden clasps patented by Mr. Witrambowski.

Alicja & Erwin Roman Witrambowski  
Miastko / Świeržno 32 / T: (+48) 598 583 215

**i**

Many years ago near Miastko, amber mines were not uncommon and even nowadays farmers dig up impressive pieces of the mineral from their fields. The most recent find near Trzcinno weighed 400 grams and one found near Piaszczyna weighed 25 grams more. Miastko and its surroundings can still be regarded as the Land of Amber.



Amber inclusion – a crane fly in Baltic amber



# The Mariacka Street Festival

23

Gdańsk

Held every year at the turn of August and September, the Festival attracts artists, craftspeople and throngs of Gdańsk's residents. Mariacka Street is not only a well-kept piece of the city's history, with its architecture and multicultural tradition; it is also about the people who today create the specific vibe of the place. They want to show their workshops, which are not open to the public on a daily basis, and bring more life to the lovely architecture with fashion shows, concerts, movie screenings and artistic performances. It is an open-air event that accompanies the Ambermart Amber Fair and livens up what is perhaps the most picturesque street in Gdańsk. The Festival is organized by the International Amber Association and the MTG SA Gdańsk International Fair Company.

[www.amber.org.pl](http://www.amber.org.pl)

i

The ancient Greeks used to burn amber for its delicate, rich aroma. Today, amber incense is manufactured to enhance air ion concentrations, reduce fatigue, strengthen the immune system, repel mosquitoes and give off its uniquely beautiful scent.



## "Ambermart"

24

Gdańsk

The "Ambermart" International Amber Fair is where you can experience the latest trends in amber jewellery and items decorated with amber. Every year, it gathers more than 130 exhibitors from all over the world. During the fair, it is strictly prohibited to sell amber counterfeits or substitutes, while pressed amber and fossil resins must be clearly labelled. Experts are available at all times during the show to help assess the jewellery, confirm its authenticity and explain its origin. The fair is accompanied by competitions, exhibitions and shows. It takes place every year in late August or early September and is open to public.

MTG SA – Amber Expo Exhibition & Convention Centre  
Gdańsk / Żaglowa 11  
[www.ambermart.pl](http://www.ambermart.pl)

**i**

For scientists, amber is an abundant source of information about what went on in forests around the world 40 million years ago. Rock imprints, for example, give us knowledge about dinosaurs, but 1-mm-sized insects were too small to become imprinted in this way; therefore those preserved in amber are an excellent source of information about ancient organisms.





# The International Amber Fishing Championships

06

## Jantar

For thousands of years, the area of the Vistula Spit, where the town of Jantar is situated, has been a leading centre for amber finding and crafting. The unique properties of Baltic amber, its beauty, pleasant scent, warmth, the life frozen in amber in the form of inclusions and, most of all, its workability have made amber a mineral of choice for hundreds of generations of artists and artisans. The greatest development of amber handicraft was seen in the Early Modern period (16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries). The annual International Amber Fishing Championships held in Jantar are deeply rooted in this tradition. The qualifiers take place at numerous beaches along the Amber Coast and, since 2010, also in the Russian town of Yantarny. The Championships are accompanied by concerts, events and a scientific conference on amber.

Jantar / Stegna municipality

time: July

[www.polawianiebursztynu.pl](http://www.polawianiebursztynu.pl)



**i**

Amber is also extracted near Rivne in western Ukraine, as well as from secondary deposits in the Vistula Lowland (Żuławy Wiślane). The northern part of the Lublin Region is also promising.





## Polish Amber Panning Championships

41

Ustka

Ustka invites you to the Polish Amber Panning Championships, held annually in August. Every year, several dozen participants compete in 4 categories to pan more than 40 kg of amber in all. In order to do so, the contestants need to fill a sieve up with sand that contains amber, rinse it in water and, finally, separate the amber. Contestants have 3 minutes to pan for the precious fossil resin and the winners get to keep the amber they have found and receive amber statuettes made by local amber artists.

Ustka

time: August



**i**

Succinic acid ( $C_4H_6O_4$ ) comes in the form of white crystals. It strengthens vital human powers, increases immunity, slows down the aging process by acting as an antioxidant. Apart from the Baltic amber, it can be found in unripe gooseberries and grapes, in sugar beet, turnip and rhubarb juice.



## "Szczypta Świata" Travel Agency

25

Gdańsk

The Agency offers special amber-themed tours of the region to organized groups and individual visitors to Pomerania. We do our best to provide you with interesting tour programs, as well as the best tour guides. Available languages include: English, German, Spanish, French and Russian.

"Szczypta Świata" Travel Agency

Gdańsk / Św. Ducha 26/30 / T/F: (+48) 58 300 03 48

biuro@szczyptaswiata.com.pl / info@toursingdansk.pl

[www.szczyptaswiata.com.pl](http://www.szczyptaswiata.com.pl)

[www.toursingdansk.pl](http://www.toursingdansk.pl)



Amber inclusion –  
a fly in Baltic amber

**i**

Since 2007, the Mayor of Gdańsk has been conferring the title of the Amber Ambassador. Granted for a period of 3 years, it first went to Lidia Popiel and Monika Richardson and, in 2013, to Polish singer and music producer Kayah.



## "The Lords of Amber" street game

26

### Trójmiasto

Participants assume the roles of medieval merchants who are supposed to pick up a precious amber stone and deliver it to a certain location at a specified time to Russian merchants who are travelling to the Italian town of Aquileia via the Amber Route. In order to reach the exchange spot, the participants need to solve riddles and locate contacts who are in possession of valuable pieces of information. The Lords of Amber street game received the Best Gdańsk Tourist Product Award in a contest organized by the Gdańsk Tourist Organisation.

Depending on the set of tasks required to complete the game, it is addressed to both children (school groups) and adults (organized tours, team building events and corporate parties). In this urban game, the cityscape serves as the game board and people as the game pieces.

Example route: Gdynia (Kościuszki Square – Manufaktura S&A – Train Station) + Gdańsk (Train Station – Old Town – Amber Museum – Ołowianka Island).

[JOYevent.pl](http://JOYevent.pl) / Travel & event agency

Gdańsk / Fieldorfa 11/3

T: (+48) 58 320 61 69

[joyevent@joyevent.pl](mailto:joyevent@joyevent.pl) / [www.joyevent.pl](http://www.joyevent.pl)





## “Teja Tur”

32

Sopot

### The Chase for Amber

The year is 2111. The place: Gdańsk, the former World Capital of Amber – It has been almost a year since the last, tiny bit of amber was found in the vicinity of Gdańsk. The authorities are helpless and no one can answer the question: where did all the amber go? Scientists work day and night to solve the mystery behind the disappearance of the Gold of the Baltic.

You are a group of investigators hired to find the precious mineral. It is a race against time and you have to look for clues very carefully and meticulously analyze every single one of them not only to solve the riddle, but also locate all the amber before it disappears – forever. You start here, at the Amber Museum.

The participants follow a path leading through different locations in Gdańsk. Their goal is to collect pieces of a map and amber nuggets, together with bits of information about the city's history. After collecting all the pieces of the puzzle and assembling them, they obtain a map with the coordinates of the amber thieves. The players also answer questions to allow them to obtain additional nuggets. The team that gathers the greatest quantity of amber nuggets, wins.

“Teja Tur” / Sopot / Smolna 3A / T: (+48) 58 552 13 39

i

The greatest number of artefacts from ancient amber routes, which started off at the Baltic Sea and headed towards the Adriatic, dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries CE.



## Early amber working techniques

07

### Mikoszewo

Apart from crafting amber and silver jewellery, Eryk Popkiewicz is involved in the reconstruction and styling of medieval workshop tools and ornaments and runs classes on amber crafting (experimental archaeology). He organizes a variety of demonstrations, including on "Amber working techniques and tool replicas from the early Middle Ages and the period of Roman influence". At the demonstrations, you can view the reproductions of amber ornaments from the said periods, learn about their origin, and about the material and spiritual value they used to have for the people of the past. This demonstration takes about 2 hours and costs 1,000 zł. After sundown, there is another attraction: an Amber Fireshow with flammable amber powder. It lasts about 20 minutes and costs 1,000 zł. It uses a technique of burning amber dust, which is thrown into the air and, in combination with the flames, looks like 1.5 m diameter fireballs in motion.

Mikoszewo (or any place agreed upon in advance)

T: (+48) 509 461 625 / [erykpo@wp.pl](mailto:erykpo@wp.pl) / [www.eryk.amberart.pl](http://www.eryk.amberart.pl)

**i**

Amber is used in the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries, medicine and, most of all, in the jewellery industry. It used to be an ingredient of prized polishes and varnishes.





Art Amber Kuś – an amber sculpture



## "Studio Relax" – Amber Treatment

27

Gdańsk

Amber is the stone of sun, happiness and well-being. Used in the cosmetics applied in this treatment, the amber extract stimulates cellular regeneration and increases ATP levels for a recharged intracellular battery and energy conveyor that provides an intense power boost, strengthens the skin and stimulates cellular respiration, thus greatly improving skin oxygenation.

It is a smoothing, regenerative and nourishing treatment that will certainly lift your spirits.

"Studio Relax" – Amber Treatment (170 zł)

Gdańsk / Al. Grunwaldzka 244

T: (+48) 58 341 80 61 / [info@studiorelax.gda.pl](mailto:info@studiorelax.gda.pl)

[www.studiorelax.gda.pl](http://www.studiorelax.gda.pl)

**i**

The first plausible version of the origin of amber was suggested in the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE by Pliny the Elder in his "Historia Naturalis". According to Pliny, amber was the product of juices released by the pines that grew on the islands of the Northern Ocean. The juices were supposed to thicken under the influence of cold temperature and sea water and, during spring storms, be taken by rough waves and washed in drops off the island shores.



## "Balola" Beauty Parlour – Amber Beauty Treatments

33

Sopot

**The Glow of Gold and Amber** – a rejuvenating skin ritual. It will make your skin more flexible, giving it glow and vitality, intensively moisturizes and stimulates the release of endorphins. The amber dust used during the treatment gives your skin a beautiful scent, leaving a touch of golden shimmer.

**Balola Massage** – a unique and deeply relaxing massage session, preceded by amber dust skin scrubbing. The treatment is based on exclusive natural oils that give your skin a boost of energy.

"Balola" Beauty Parlour

The Glow of Gold and Amber (250 zł)

Balola Massage (90 min / 240 zł)

Sopot / Tadeusza Kościuszki 4/1/B

(entrance: Dworcowa Street)

T: (+48) 58 341 30 71, (+48) 666 466 717

sopot@balola.pl / www.balola.pl



jewellery by Marcin Wesotowski



Amber was extremely popular all across the Roman Empire, as well throughout the Mediterranean Sea basin. Since the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, expeditions to obtain large quantities of amber embarked along the Amber Route that stretched from the Adriatic to the coast of Baltic Sea.



## "Mera Spa Hotel" – The Amber Ceremony

34

Sopot

Body scrubbing treatment with amber micro-particles and sea salt crystals smoothes the skin, while a massage session provides the body with the benefits of negative ions contained in amber. By increasing blood flow, it stimulates energy, improves concentration and mood. A face massage with amber puts the body in a state of harmony and calms the mind.

"Mera SPA Hotel" – Massage & beauty treatments  
The Amber Ceremony (450 zł) / session time: ca. 90 min.

Sopot / Bitwy pod Płowcami 59  
T: (+48) 58 766 60 80 / [spareception@meraspahotel.pl](mailto:spareception@meraspahotel.pl)

**i**

Today, the amber used in jewellery is very often modified. The process makes it possible to obtain: completely transparent pieces of amber, surface colouration, colour uniformity or the scales (sparkles) effect. Amber modification is not a bad thing, as long as the customer is informed about it.



## "Bryza Resort & SPA" – Amber Massage

38

Jurata

Visit the SPA for an amber massage session: a therapeutic treatment to ease muscle pain and tension and strengthen your nervous system.

The massage is performed with hot and cold amber stones. Amber relieves stress, improves your mood and strengthens vitality. Put against the solar plexus, it stabilizes your spleen, heart and circulatory system. It also helps cure thyroid diseases and acts as a bactericide. The massage is a pleasant way of improving thyroid activity and minimizing rheumatic disorders.

Your experience will be further enhanced with a scenic view of the sea, to give you sense of happiness and relaxation at this seaside SPA.

"Bryza Resort & SPA" – Amber Massage (250 zł)

Jurata / Międzyrzecze 2

T: (+48) 58 675 54 50 / [spa@bryza.pl](mailto:spa@bryza.pl)

**i**

The "School on the Amber Route" competition has been held since 2009. Schools from all over Poland and Europe enrol to take part in the competition and spread the knowledge about amber in countries that had once been part of the ancient Amber Route.





## "Bazuny" Hotel & SPA

44

### Kościerzyna

"Bazuny" Hotel\*\*\* & SPA proudly provides you with the unique offer from the only Kashubian SPA in Poland, inspired by the natural beauty and richness of the region. The SPA's extensive body treatment offer includes unique Kashubian rituals that incorporate amber.

**Amber Face Massage** – performed with natural amber for restored energy levels, relaxation and rejuvenation.

**Amber Massage** – performed using natural ground amber.

Its soothing properties have a beneficial impact on both body and mind. The amber stimulates your muscles, energy lines and chakras, activates your inner energy and neutralizes excessive positive charge that accumulates inside of the body due to stress or infections.

It effectively intensifies skin blood flow, supports the immune system and allows you to relax.

"Bazuny" Hotel & SPA

Amber Face Massage (70 zł) and Amber Massage (130 zł)

Kościerzyna / Kościuszki 17 / T: (+48) 58 680 21 20 / [spa@hotelbazuny.pl](mailto:spa@hotelbazuny.pl)

i

The largest piece of amber ever found weighed 9.75 kg. It was discovered in 1860 in the area of Kamień Pomorski. Today, it can be seen at the Museum of Natural History, Humboldt University, Berlin.



## “Raspberry Garden” Restaurant – Amber Menu

28

Gdańsk

The “Raspberry Garden’s” Amber Menu is inspired by the “Gold of North” and has been developed by the restaurant’s chef in collaboration with the Amber Museum. The restaurant’s owners recommend you take a tour of Gdańsk, starting from the Amber Altar in St Bridget’s Basilica, followed by a visit to the Amber Museum, the amber Mariacka street and the “Blue Lion” Archaeology Education Centre, with the finale at the Restaurant, where you can taste amber-inspired dishes. By using honey, maple syrup, golden roux, etc. the meals gain a specific colour, making an explicit reference to the mineral. Amber Lunch is served from 13:00 to 17:00 and caters to both organized groups and individuals.

Gdańsk / Łąkowa 1-2 / T: (+48) 58 326 06 03  
[dommuzyka@malinowyogrod.pl](mailto:dommuzyka@malinowyogrod.pl)  
[www.malinowyogrod.pl](http://www.malinowyogrod.pl)



i

The most inspiring Polish collections of amber can be seen at the PAS Museum of the Earth in Warsaw, the Castle Museum in Malbork, the Amber Museum in Gdańsk, the Amber Room Museum in Stegna and the University of Gdańsk Museum of Amber Inclusions.



## "Pomorska Akademia Kulinarna" – Amber soup

29

Gdańsk

Culinary artist Andrzej Ławniczak invites you to "Pomorska Akademia Kulinarna" (Pomeranian Culinary Academy) for his original, sophisticated and delicious Amber Soup based on his original recipe. The soup received the Best Polish Regional Dish Award in the "2009 PEARL Our Culinary Heritage Competition – Regional Flavours". The soup can be tasted on site by prior phone appointment (+48 501 646 777). The price per serving is 25 zł. Group appointments are also available, combined with a presentation on how to prepare the soup at home.

It is also possible to organize a live amber soup cooking presentation at the customer's premises, should they want to introduce the soup into their menu.

Amber Soup – unique, rich in flavour and wholesome!

Gdańsk / Grunwaldzka 131A

**i**

Amber is lightweight, with the density of ca.  $1 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , comparable to that of seawater. This is why it floats in salt water but sinks in fresh water. In cool seasons of the year, when low temperatures give water its greatest density, amber rises from the seabed to be picked up by waves and washed out on the shore.



## "Bowke" Beer Tavern

30

Gdańsk

The Gdański "Bowke" Beer Tavern invites the lovers of sophisticated cuisine for an experience that combines the traditional features of Gdańsk with amber and fine cooking. The first stop will be the Amber Museum, followed by the Amber Gallery at Długi Targ (Long Market). You can participate in an amber cutting demonstration, followed by a short lecture on coniferous fossil resins. After the demonstration, you will have the opportunity to try the delicious menu of Gdański Bowke Beer Tavern. The experience is addressed to both organized groups and individuals.

Gdańsk / Długie Pobrzeże 11

T: (+48) 58 380 11 11 / [info@gdanskibowke.com](mailto:info@gdanskibowke.com)

**i**

The best time to gather amber from a beach is right after a storm, especially one accompanied by the north wind. The largest quantities of amber can be found in places where the sea washes up sticks. The most experienced amber fishers use scoop nets (framed nets on a long handle).



## "Atelier Smaku" Culinary Workshop

36

Gdynia

Jola Słoma & Mirek Trymbulak are the authors of cookbooks and series of cooking shows for Kuchnia+ and [www.ateliersmaku.tv](http://www.ateliersmaku.tv). They are ardent advocates of vegan, gluten-free cuisine with great passion and artistic creativity, traits typical of fashion designers. This is why they established "Atelier Smaku" (The Atelier of Taste), a unique, private and professionally equipped cooking school, where both amateurs and professionals will find culinary shows and workshops. It is a safe haven for those who appreciate aromatic cuisine, filled with the scent of fresh herbs.

For years, the designers have used Baltic amber in their fashion shows. Its colour inspires them in the kitchen as well, which is why their agenda of culinary workshops includes an amber menu.

Workshop dates are available at:  
[www.facebook.com/ateliersmaku](https://www.facebook.com/ateliersmaku)

Gdynia Ortowo / Sosnowiecka 35

T: (+48) 501 155 238 / [info@ateliersmaku.pl](mailto:info@ateliersmaku.pl) / [www.ateliersmaku.pl](http://www.ateliersmaku.pl)

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The first and so far only photographic lens made of transparent polished amber was made in Gdańsk by Marek Mazur, a local inventor and manufacturer of miniature photo cameras.





## "Smoke on the water" Restaurant & Winery

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### Ustka

The restaurant's windows overlook the Baltic Sea. Next to local produce and the cutting-edge sous-vide cooking technology, it offers a special summertime Amber Menu. After every storm, amber catchers turn up at the entrance to the beach, next to the "Smoke on the Water" restaurant, wandering among the beautiful pines that grow around it. And since amber comes from resin, the chef, Rafał Niewiarowski, has introduced the pine taste into the local products, thus giving the dishes an amber-like uniqueness and character.

"Smoke on the Water" does not have a fixed menu. This opens up the possibilities to compose new, seasonal dishes. The restaurant divides the year into six seasons, while the kitchen uses mostly what it can acquire from local manufacturers: goat cheese from Swołowo, "Maryłka" cheese from Lubuczewo, meats from Starkowo, local wine from Głobino, Baltic Sea and local lake fish, etc. The restaurant serves wines from all over the world.

Ustka / Chopina 9 / T: (+48) 739 432 403 / (+48) 661 432 403  
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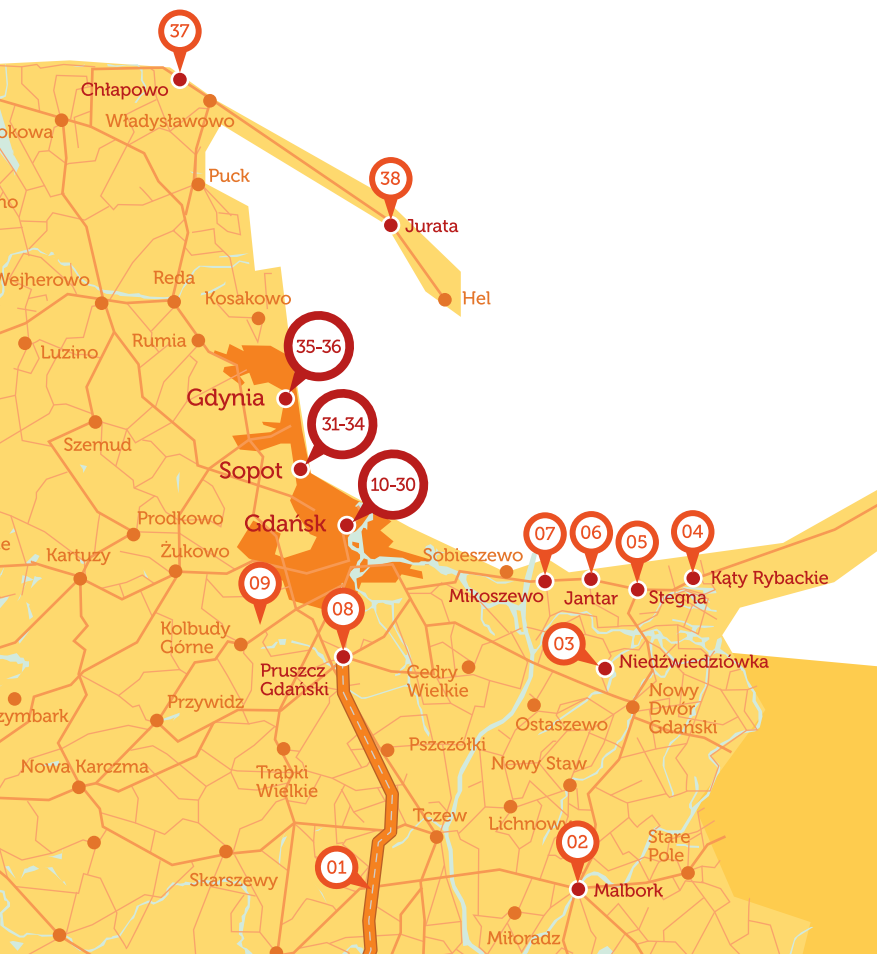
The Amber Route was not a road, but rather a direction in which amber travelled with merchants – from the Baltic Sea to the countries of the Mediterranean.



# Amber inspirations

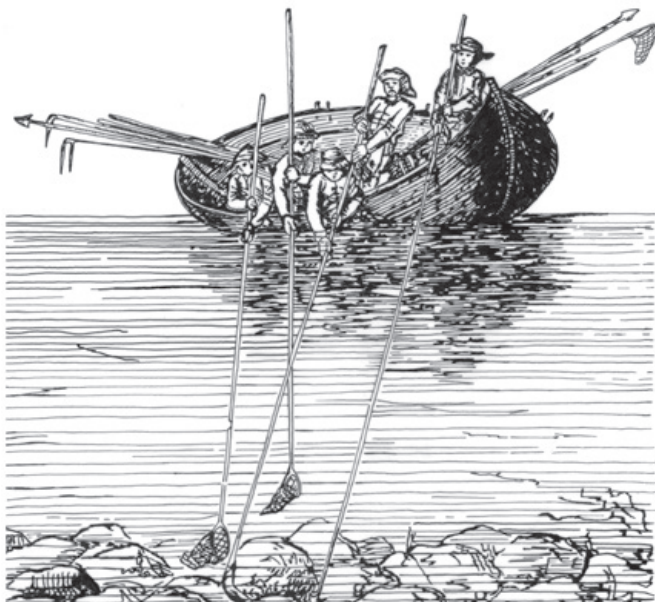


- 01 / The A1 – “Amber Highway”
- 02 / The Castle Museum
- 03 / Niedźwiedziówka, Niedźwiedzica
- 04 / Danuta Burczik-Kruczkowska Amber Gallery and Workshop
- 05 / The “Amber Room” Museum
- 06 / The International Amber Fishing Championships
- 07 / Early amber working techniques
- 08 / The “Faktoria” International Baltic Culture Park
- 09 / “Bursztynowa Góra” (The Amber Mountain)
- 10 / The Amber Museum
- 11 / The Archaeological Museum
- 12 / The “Blue Lion” Archaeological Education Centre
- 13 / The Museum of Amber Inclusions
- 14 / The PGE Arena – “Amber Stadium”
- 15 / “Amber Drops”
- 16 / The Amber Altar and monstrance at St. Bridget’s Basilica
- 17 / “Michel Amber Manufacture”
- 18 / “Styl” Gallery
- 19 / “Prestige” Amber Gallery
- 20 / “Moja Forma” Gallery
- 21 / Amber Gallery
- 22 / The Amber Manufactory at the Amber Museum



- 23 / The Mariacka Street Festival
- 24 / "Ambermart"
- 25 / "Szczypota Świata" Travel Agency
- 26 / "The Lords of Amber" street game
- 27 / "Studio Relax"
- 28 / "Raspberry Garden" Restaurant
- 29 / "Pomorska Akademia Kulinarna"
- 30 / "Bowke" Beer Tavern
- 31 / "Ambermoda"
- 32 / "Teja Tur"
- 33 / "Balola" Beauty Parlour
- 34 / "Mera Spa Hotel"
- 35 / Manufaktura "S & A"
- 36 / "Atelier Smaku" Culinary Workshop
- 37 / "Damroka" – Marian Zawadzki
- 38 / "Bryza Resort & SPA"
- 39 / Naryczyk Kalski Amber Gallery
- 40 / "Agat" Łukaszewscy & "Amber Słupsk"
- 41 / Polish Amber Panning Championships
- 42 / "Smoke on the water" Restaurant & Winery
- 43 / "The past embedded in amber"
- 44 / "Bazuny" Hotel & SPA

"Amber Fishing",  
W. Runge "Der Bernstein in Ostpreussen", Berlin 1868,  
copied by Elzbieta Kropidłowska



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AMBER ROUTE  
SZLAK BURSZTYNOWY

