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# Gdańsk

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*For alternative meanings of Gdańsk and Danzig, see [Gdańsk \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Danzig \(disambiguation\)](#)*

**Gdańsk**, formerly known by its German name Danzig (see *Names* below), is a city on the [Baltic](#) coast in northern [Poland](#), at the centre of the country's fourth-largest [metropolitan area](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

Gdańsk is Poland's principal [seaport](#) as well as the capital of the [Pomeranian Voivodeship](#). It is also historically the largest city of the [Kashubian region](#). The city is close to the former boundary between [West Slavic](#) and [Germanic](#) lands and it has a complex [political history](#) with periods of Polish rule, periods of [German](#) rule, and two spells as a [free city](#). It has been part of modern Poland since 1945.

The city lies on the southern edge of [Gdańsk Bay](#) (of the [Baltic Sea](#)), in a [conurbation](#) with the [spa town](#) of [Sopot](#), the city of [Gdynia](#) and suburban communities, which together form a metropolitan area called the [Tricity](#) (*Trójmiasto*), with a population of over 800,000.<sup>[1]</sup> Gdańsk itself has a population of 455,830 (June 2009), making it the largest city in the [Pomerania](#) region of Northern Poland.

Gdańsk is situated at the mouth of the [Motława](#) River, connected to the [Leniwka](#), a branch in the delta of the nearby [Vistula River](#), whose waterway system supplies 60% of the area of Poland and connects Gdańsk to the [national capital](#) in [Warsaw](#). This gives the city a unique advantage as the centre of Poland's sea trade. Together with the nearby port of [Gdynia](#), Gdańsk is also an important industrial centre. Historically an important seaport and shipbuilding centre, Gdańsk was a member of the [Hanseatic League](#).

The city was the birthplace of the [Solidarity](#) movement which, under the leadership of Gdańsk [political activist](#) [Lech Wałęsa](#), played a major role in bringing an end to [Communist](#) rule across [Central Europe](#). It is also the home and birthplace

## Gdańsk



City Center, Centrum from Motława River, Lady from the Window, Neptun, Neptun and the apartment houses of Długi Targ street, Suspension bridge



Flag



Coat of arms

*Motto: [Nec Temere, Nec Timide](#)*  
(Neither rashly, nor timidly)

 Gdańsk

of Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**, who is of **Kashubian** origin.

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Coordinates: 54°22′N 18°38′E﻿ / ﻿54.367°N 18.633°E﻿ / 54.367; 18.633﻿ / 54.367; 18.633

Country	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Poland
Voivodeship	Pomeranian
County	<i>city county</i>
Established	10th century
City rights	1263
Government <span></span>	
<span> </span> - Mayor	<b>Paweł Adamowicz</b> (PO)
Area <span></span>	
<span> </span> - City	262 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (101.2 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi)
Population (2009) <span></span>	
<span> </span> - City	455,830
<span> </span> - <i>Density</i>	1,739.8/km <sup>2</sup> (4,506.1/sq <span> </span> mi)
<span> </span> - Metro	1,080,700
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
<span> </span> - Summer (DST)	CEST (UTC+2)
Postal code	80-008 to 80-958
Area code(s)	+48 58
Car plates	GD
Website	<span>http://www.gdansk.pl</span> <span><span><span></span></span></span>

## Names

[[edit](#)]



Zwantepolc de Danceke, 1228

The city's name is thought to originate from the **Gdania River**,<sup>[2]</sup> the original name of the Motława branch on which the city is situated. Gdańsk and Gdania are considered to be derivations from the Gothic name of the area (**Gutiskandja**),<sup>[3]</sup> however this has also been questioned.<sup>[4]</sup> Like many other Central European cities, Gdańsk has had many different names throughout its history.

The name of a settlement was recorded after St. Adalbert's death in 997 AD as *urbs Gyddanyzc*<sup>[5]</sup> and later was written as *Kdanzk* (1148), *Gdanzc* (1188), *Danceke*<sup>[6]</sup> (1228), *Gdansk* (1236, 1454, 1468, 1484, 1590), *Danzc* (1263), *Danzck* (1311, 1399, 1410, 1414–1438), *Danczik* (1399, 1410, 1414),<sup>[5]</sup> *Danczig* (1414), *Gdąnsk* (1636). See



subsequent papal lawsuit.<sup>[15][17]</sup> The knights colonized the area, replacing local Kashubians with German settlers.<sup>[16]</sup> In 1308, they founded *Hakelwerk* near the town, initially as a Slavic fishing settlement.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1340, the Teutonic Knights built a large fortress, which became the seat of the knights' *Komtur*.<sup>[18]</sup> In 1343, they founded *Rechtstadt*, which in contrast to the pre-existing town (thence *Altstadt*, "Old Town" or *Stare Miasto*) was chartered with *Kulm Law*.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1358, Danzig joined the *Hanseatic League*, and became an active member in 1361.<sup>[19]</sup> It maintained relations with the trade centres *Brügge*, *Novgorod*, *Lisboa* and *Sevilla*.<sup>[19]</sup> In 1377, the *Old Town's* city limits were expanded.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1380, *Neustadt* ("New Town" or "Nowe Miasto") was founded as the fourth, independent settlement.<sup>[14]</sup>

After a series of *Polish-Teutonic Wars*, in the *Treaty of Kalisz (1343)* the Order had to acknowledge that it would hold Pomerelia as an *alm* from the *Polish Crown*. Although it left the legal basis of the Order's possession of the province in some doubt, the city thrived as a result of increased exports of grain (especially wheat), timber, potas, tar, and other goods of forestry from Prussia and Poland via the *Vistula River trading routes*, despite the fact that after its capture, the Teutonic Knights tried to actively reduce the economic significance of the town. While under the control of the *Teutonic Order* German migration increased. A new war broke out in 1409, ending with the *Battle of Grunwald* (1410), and the city came under the control of the *Kingdom of Poland*. A year later, with the first *First Peace of Thorn*, it returned to the Teutonic Order. In 1440, the city participated in the foundation of the *Prussian Confederation* which was an organization opposed to the rule of the Teutonic Knights. This led to the *Thirteen Years' War* of independence from the *Teutonic Monastic State of Prussia* (1454–1466). This intermittent warfare ended on May 25, 1457, when the city - jointly with *Royal Prussia* - became part of the *Crown of Poland* while maintaining its rights and independence as an autonomous city.<sup>[20][21]</sup>



The medieval port crane, called *Żuraw* over *Mottawa* river.

## Modern Ages

[[edit](#)]



*Green Gate* inspired by the *Antwerp City Hall*,<sup>[22]</sup> was built to serve as the formal residence of the *Polish monarchs*.<sup>[23]</sup>

On 15 May 1457, *Casimir IV of Poland* granted Danzig the *Great Privilege* (*German: Großes Privileg*), after he had been invited by the town's council and had already stayed in town for five weeks.<sup>[24]</sup> With the *Great Privilege*, the town was granted autonomy from Poland.<sup>[25]</sup> The privilege confirmed to the town independent jurisdiction, legislation and administration of her territory, and the rights of the Polish crown were limited to the following: The Polish king was allowed to stay in town for three days a year, he was further allowed to choose a permanent envoy from eight councilmen proposed to him by the town, and received an annual payment, the *Gefälle*.<sup>[24]</sup> Furthermore, the privilege

united *Old Town*, *Hakelwerk* and *Rechtstadt*, and legalized the demolition of *New Town*, which had sided with the *Teutonic Knights*.<sup>[24]</sup> Already in 1457, *New Town* was demolished completely, no buildings remained.<sup>[14]</sup>

Gaining free and privileged access for the first time to Polish markets, the seaport prospered while simultaneously trading with the other Hanseatic cities. After the *Second Peace of Thorn (1466)* with the Teutonic Monastic State of

Prussia the warfare between the latter and the Polish crown ended permanently. After the incorporation of [Royal Prussia](#) by the [Kingdom of Poland](#) in 1569, the city continued to enjoy a large degree of internal autonomy (cf. [Danzig Law](#)).

King [Stephen Báthory's](#) attempt to subject the city, which had supported [Maximilian II](#) in the prior election of the king, failed. The city, encouraged by its immense wealth and almost impregnable fortifications, as well as by the secret support of [Denmark](#) and [Emperor Maximilian](#), shut its gates against Stephen. After the [Siege of Danzig \(1577\)](#), lasting six months, the city's army of 5,000 mercenaries was utterly defeated in a field battle on December 16, 1577. However, since Stephen's armies were unable to take the city by force, a compromise was reached: [Stephen Báthory](#) confirmed the city's special status and her [Danzig Law](#) privileges granted by earlier [Polish kings](#). The city recognised him as ruler of Poland and paid the enormous sum of 200,000 [gulden](#)s in gold as payoff ("apology").

Beside the German-speaking majority, whose elites sometimes distinguished their German dialect as [Pomerelian](#),<sup>[26]</sup> the city was home to a large number of Polish-speaking Poles, [Jewish Poles](#), and [Dutch](#). In addition, a number of [Scotsmen](#) took refuge or immigrated to and received citizenship in the city. During the [Protestant Reformation](#), most German-speaking inhabitants adopted [Lutheranism](#).

The city suffered a slow economic decline due to the wars of the 18th century, when it was taken by the Russians after the [Siege of Danzig](#) in 1734. Danzig was [annexed](#) by the [Kingdom of Prussia](#) in 1793, only to be broken off by Napoleon as a pseudo-independent [free city](#) from 1807-1814. Returned to Prussia after [France's](#) defeat in the [Napoleonic Wars](#), the city became the capital of [Regierungsbezirk Danzig](#) within the province of [West Prussia](#) from 1815. The city's longest serving [Regierungspräsident](#) was [Robert von Blumenthal](#), who held office from 1841, through the [revolutions of 1848](#), until 1863. The city became part of the [German Empire](#) in 1871.

Throughout its long history Gdańsk/Danzig faced various periods of rule from different states before 1945 (in brackets the language of the majority of its inhabitants during that time):

- 997-1308: as part of Poland (Polish)
- 1308-1454: as part of the territory of the Teutonic Order (German)
- 1454-1466: Thirteen Years' War (German)
- 1466-1793: as part of Poland (German)
- 1793-1805: as part of Prussia (German)
- 



Entry of Queen [Marie Louise of Poland](#) into Gdańsk, February 11, 1646.



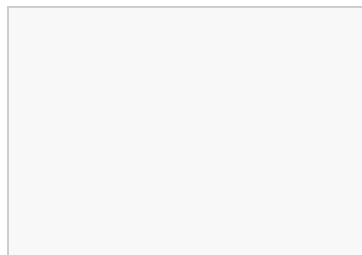
Danzig in XVII century, painting by [Wojciech Gerson](#)

- 1807-1814: as a free city (German)
- 1815-1871: as part of Prussia (German)
- 1871-1918: as part of Imperial Germany (German)
- 1918-1939: as a free city (German)
- 1939-1945: as part of Nazi Germany (German)
- 1945–present: as part of Poland (Polish)

## The inter-war years, and World War II

[[edit](#)]

When Poland regained its independence after [World War I](#) with access to the sea as promised by the [Allies](#) on the basis of [Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points"](#) (point 13 called for "an independent Polish state", "which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea"), the Poles hoped the city's harbour would also become part of Poland. However, since a 1919 census determined that the city's population was 98% German,<sup>[28]</sup> it rather failed to have an "indisputably Polish population" and was not placed under Polish sovereignty, but, in accordance with the terms of the [Versailles Treaty](#), became the [Free City of Danzig](#), an independent quasi-state under the auspices of the [League of Nations](#) with its external affairs largely under Polish control. This led to a large degree of tension between the city and the surrounding [Republic of Poland](#). The Free City had its own constitution, [national anthem](#), parliament (*Volkstag*), and government (*Senat*). It issued its own stamps as well as currency.



The German population of the [Free City of Danzig](#) favored reincorporation into Germany. In the early 1930s the local [Nazi Party](#) capitalized on these pro-German sentiments and in 1933 garnered 50% of vote in the parliament. Thereafter, the Nazis under [Gauleiter Albert Forster](#) achieved dominance in the city government, which was still nominally overseen by the League of Nations' [High Commissioner](#). The Nazis demanded the return of



The Town Hall spire, with a gilded statue of King [Sigismund II Augustus of Poland](#) on its pinnacle (installed in 1561), dominates Long Market skyline.<sup>[27]</sup>



Monument to the defenders of Polish Gdańsk



German Nazi propaganda poster: "Danzig is German".

Danzig to Germany along with an extraterritorial (meaning under German [jurisdiction](#)) highway through the area of the [Polish Corridor](#) for land-based access between the parts of Germany which had become physically separated after World War I.<sup>[29]</sup> The [Polish government](#) in principle agreed to this proposal until the [Anglo-Polish military alliance](#) in March 1939 effectively canceled the [German–Polish Non-Aggression Pact](#) of 1934 and ended Polish willingness to negotiate concessions. German-Polish relations deteriorated rapidly afterwards, even [escalating](#) into border skirmishes. The German Nazi Government, knowing that its [military strength](#) was inferior to the combined British, French, Polish, and Soviet forces, [invaded Poland](#) on

September 1 only after having secured [Soviet approval](#) in late August, hoping to negotiate a peace solution with Britain and France after the end of hostilities.<sup>[30]</sup> This invasion of Poland is regarded as the beginning of World War II.

World War II began in Danzig, with a bombardment of Polish positions at [Westerplatte](#) by the German battleship [Schleswig-Holstein](#), and the landing of German infantry on the peninsula. Outnumbered Polish defenders at Westerplatte resisted for seven days before running out of ammunition. Meanwhile, after a fierce day-long fight (1 September 1939), defenders of the [Polish Post office](#) were murdered and buried on the spot in the Danzig quarter of [Zaspa](#) in October 1939. To celebrate the surrender of Westerplatte, the NSDAP organized a night parade on Sep 7th along Adolf-Hitlerstrasse that was inadvertently attacked by a Polish hydroplane taking off from [Hel Peninsula](#). The city was officially annexed by [Nazi Germany](#) and incorporated into the [Reichsgau Danzig-West Prussia](#).



"Danzig is German". Postage stamp issued by Nazi Germany to celebrate the incorporation of Danzig into [Germany](#) after the [invasion of Poland](#).<sup>[31]</sup>

Most of the [Jewish community](#) in Danzig were able to escape from the Nazis shortly before the outbreak of war. [Nazi secret police](#) had been observing Polish communities since 1936, compiling information, which in 1939 served to prepare lists of Poles to be captured in [Operation Tannenberg](#). On the first day of the war, approximately 1,500 [ethnic Poles](#) were arrested, some because of their participation in social and economic life, others because they were activists and members of various Polish organizations. On September 2, 1939, 150 of them were deported to the [Stutthof concentration camp](#) some 30 miles from Danzig, and murdered.<sup>[32]</sup> Many Poles living in Danzig were deported to Stutthof or executed in the [Piaśnica](#) forest.

In 1941, the Nazi Regime ordered the [invasion of the Soviet Union](#), eventually causing the fortunes of war to turn

against it. As the [Soviet Army](#) advanced in 1944, German populations in Central and Eastern Europe took flight, resulting in the beginning of a great population shift. After the final Soviet offensive began in January, 1945, hundreds of thousands of German refugees, many of whom had fled to Danzig on foot from [East Prussia](#) (see [evacuation of East Prussia](#)), tried to escape through the city's port in a

large-scale evacuation involving hundreds of German cargo and passenger ships. Some of the ships were sunk by the Soviets, including the *Wilhelm Gustloff* after an evacuation was attempted at neighboring Gdynia. In the process, tens of thousands of refugees were killed.

The city also endured heavy Allied and Soviet bombardment by air. Those who survived and could not escape encountered the Soviet Army, which captured the city on March 30, 1945. The city was heavily damaged.<sup>[33]</sup> In line with the decisions made by the Allies at the [Yalta](#) and [Potsdam](#) conferences, the city became part of Poland. The remaining German residents of the city who had survived the war [fled or were forcibly expelled](#) to postwar Germany, and the city was repopulated with ethnic Poles, many of whom had been [deported by the Soviets](#) in [two major waves](#) from [Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union](#), i.e. from the [eastern portion](#) of [pre-war Poland](#).

## Contemporary times

[edit]

The historic old city of Gdańsk, which had suffered large-scale destruction at the hands of the Soviet Army, was rebuilt during the 1950s and 1960s. Boosted by heavy investment in the development of its port and three major shipyards for Soviet ambitions in the [Baltic region](#), Gdańsk became the major shipping and industrial centre of the [Communist People's Republic of Poland](#).

As part of German-Polish reconciliation policies driven by [West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik](#), German territorial claims on Gdańsk were renounced, and the city's full incorporation into Poland was recognized in the [Treaty of Warsaw](#) in 1970. This was confirmed by a reunited Germany in 1990 and 1991.

In December 1970, Gdańsk was the scene of anti-regime demonstrations, which led to the downfall of Poland's communist leader [Władysław Gomułka](#). During the demonstrations in Gdansk and Gdynia, military as well as the police opened fire on the demonstrators causing several dozen deaths. Ten years later, on August 31, 1980, [Gdańsk Shipyard](#) was the birthplace of the [Solidarity trade union](#) movement, whose opposition to the Communist regime led to the end of Communist Party rule in 1989, and sparked a series of protests that successfully overturned the Communist regimes of the former [Soviet bloc](#). Solidarity's leader, [Lech Wałęsa](#) became [President of Poland](#) in 1990. Gdańsk native [Donald Tusk](#) became [Prime Minister of Poland](#) in 2007.

Today Gdańsk is a major shipping port and [tourist destination](#) and has been the setting for a number of major open air concerts, including [Pink Floyd's David Gilmour](#) and [Jean Michel Jarre](#). The [Rock band](#) Queen staged a concert in the Shipyard in October 2008.<sup>[35]</sup>

[Wikimania 2010](#) — the 6th annual Wikimedia Conference — is scheduled to take place in the [Polish Baltic Philharmonic](#) in Gdańsk, Poland from July 9–11, 2010.

## Climate

[edit]



This section does not [cite](#) any [references or sources](#).

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Gdansk enjoys a [temperate climate](#), with cold, cloudy, moderate winters and mild summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms. Average temperatures range from -1.0 to 17.2 °C (30 to 63 °F) and rainfall varies from 31.0 mm/month to 84.0 mm/month. In general it is a [maritime climate](#) and



Example of the [Dutch style](#) buildings recreated in the Main Town after the world war - Old Arsenal by Anthony van Obberghen, Jan Strakowski and Abraham van den Blocke, 1602 - 1605.<sup>[34]</sup>

therefore damp, variable and mild.

The seasons are clearly differentiated. Spring starts in March and is initially cold and windy, later becoming pleasantly warm and often very sunny. Summer, which begins in June, is predominantly warm but hot at times (with temperature reaching as high as 30-35C at least once per year) with plenty of sunshine interspersed with heavy rain. The average annual hours of sunshine for Gdansk are 1600, similar to other Northern cities. July and August are the hottest months. Autumn comes in September and is at first warm and usually sunny, turning cold, damp and foggy in November. Winter lasts from December to March and includes periods of snow. January and February are the coldest months with the temperature sometimes dropping as low as −15 °C (5 °F).

Climate data for Gdansk

Month <span>[hide]</span>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	11.2 (52)	12.8 (55)	19.7 (67)	25.8 (78)	29.3 (85)	32.1 (90)	34.9 (95)	34.2 (94)	30.2 (86)	24.3 (76)	16.6 (62)	14.0 (57)	34.9 (95)
Average high °C (°F)	1.5 (35)	1.9 (35)	6.8 (44)	12.5 (55)	17.9 (64)	18.8 (66)	20.4 (69)	20.1 (68)	16.4 (62)	11.8 (53)	6.0 (43)	2.9 (37)	11.4 (53)
Daily mean °C (°F)	−1.0 (30)	−0.3 (31)	3.4 (38)	8.3 (47)	13.0 (55)	15.4 (60)	17.0 (63)	16.4 (62)	13.7 (57)	9.2 (49)	4.2 (40)	1.0 (34)	8.9 (48)
Average low °C (°F)	−3.5 (26)	−2.5 (28)	−0.1 (32)	4.1 (39)	8.1 (47)	12.0 (54)	13.6 (56)	12.7 (55)	11.0 (52)	6.6 (44)	2.4 (36)	−0.9 (30)	5.3 (42)
Record low °C (°F)	−23.8 (−11)	−23.0 (−9)	−17.5 (1)	−6.9 (20)	−2.0 (28)	0.9 (34)	4.1 (39)	2.0 (36)	−2.9 (27)	−5.8 (22)	−12.4 (10)	−16.6 (2)	−23.8 (−11)
Precipitation mm (inches)	33 (1.3)	36 (1.42)	36 (1.42)	37 (1.46)	59 (2.32)	59 (2.32)	79 (3.11)	62 (2.44)	58 (2.28)	50 (1.97)	47 (1.85)	45 (1.77)	601 (23.66)
Sunshine hours	34	51	90	147	219	255	254	233	160	95	48	24	1,610
% Humidity	90	89	87	83	81	76	80	80	82	85	88	89	84
Avg. precipitation days	17	14	16	13	12	15	15	14	13	16	16	17	188
Source #1: <i>www.imigw.pl</i> <span>{{{accessdate}}}</span>													
Source #2: <i>http://www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xchg/gus</i> <span>{{{accessdate2}}}</span>													

## Economy

[[edit](#)]

The industrial sections of the city are dominated by shipbuilding, petrochemical and chemical industries, and food processing. The share of high-tech sectors such as electronics, telecommunications, IT engineering, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals is on the rise. Amber processing is also an important part of the local economy, as the majority of the world's amber deposits lie along the Baltic coast. The Pomeranian Voivodeship, including Gdańsk, is also a major tourist destination in the summer months, as millions of Poles and European Union citizens flock to the beaches of the Baltic coastline.

Major companies in Gdańsk:

- **Grupa Lotos**- energy
- **Energa Trading** - energy
- **GE Money Bank** - finance
- **Gdańska Stocznia Remontowa** - shipbuilding
- **Elnord** - energy
- **Elektrociepłownie Wybrzeże** - energy
- **LPP** - retail
- **Polnord Energobudowa** - construction company
- **Petrobaltic** - energy
- **Delphi** - automotive parts
- **Intel** - IT
- **IBM** - IT
- **Fineos** - IT
- **Wirtualna Polska** - internet service

- [Arla Foods](#) - food processing
- [Acxiom](#) - IT
- [Kainos](#) - IT
- [Dr. Oetker](#) - food processing
- [Lufthansa Systems](#) - IT
- [Compuware](#) - IT
- [ZenSar Technologies](#) - IT
- [SII](#) - IT
- [Suruga Seiki](#) - IT
- [Thomson Reuters](#) - media
- [ThyssenKrupp Johann A. Krause](#) - steel, engineering, capital goods
- [Maersk Line](#) - services & pick-up
- [First Data](#) - finance
- [Masterlease](#) - finance
- [Transcom WorldWide](#) - business processing outsourcing
- [Jysk](#) - retail
- [Meritum Bank](#) - finance
- [Glencore](#) - raw materials
- [Orlen Morena](#) - energy
- [Fosfory Ciech](#) - chemical company
- [Crist](#) - shipbuilding
- [Dr Cordesmeyer](#) - flour milling
- [Hydrobudowa](#) - construction company
- [Mercor](#) - fire protection systems
- [Cognor](#) - steel, engineering, capital goods
- [Llentabhallen](#) - steel constructions
- [Atlanta Poland](#) - nuts and dried fruit importer
- [Ziaja](#) - cosmetics and beauty company
- [Stabilator](#) - construction company
- [Skanska](#) - construction company
- [Young Digital Planet](#) - IT
- [Flügger](#) - paints manufacturing
- [Satel](#) - security systems, IT
- [HD heavy duty](#) - retail
- [Dresser Wayne](#) - retail fueling systems
- [Maersk Line](#) - services & pick-up
- [First Data](#) - finance
- [Masterlease](#) - finance
- [Transcom WorldWide](#) - business processing outsourcing
- [Weyerhaeuser Cellulose Fibers](#) - cellulose fibers manufacturing (planned)
- [Sony Pictures Entertainment](#) - bookkeeping (planned)
- [Gdańsk Shipyard](#) - shipbuilding
- [Stocznia Północna](#) - shipbuilding

## Main sights

[\[edit\]](#)

The city has many fine buildings from the time of the [Hanseatic League](#). Most [tourist attractions](#) are located along or near [Ulica Długa](#) (*Long Street*) and [Długi Targ](#)

(*Long Market*), a pedestrian thoroughfare surrounded by buildings reconstructed in historical (primarily 17th century) style and flanked at both ends by elaborate [city gates](#). This part of the city is sometimes referred to as the Royal Road as the former path of processions for visiting kings.

Walking from end to end, sites encountered on or near the Royal Way include:

- Upland Gate (*Brama Wyżynna*)
- Torture House (*Katownia*)
- Prison Tower (*Wieża więzienna*)
- [Golden Gate](#) (*Złota Brama*)
- Long Street (*Ulica Długa*)
  - Uphagen House (*Dom Uphagena*)
  - Main [Town Hall](#) (*Ratusz Głównego Miasta*)
- Long Market (*Długi Targ*)
  - [Artus' Court](#) (*Dwór Artusa*)
  - Neptune Fountain (*Fontanna Neptuna*)
  - Golden House (*Złota kamienica*)
- Green Gate (*Zielona Brama*)

Gdańsk has a number of historical churches:

- St. Bridget
- St. Catherine
- St. John
- [St Mary](#) (*Bazylika Mariacka*), a municipal church built during the 15th century, is the largest brick church in the world.
- St Nicholas' Church
- Church of [the Holy Trinity](#)

The [museum ship SS Soldek](#) is anchored on the [Motława](#) River and was the first ship built in post-war Poland.

In the 16th century, Gdańsk hosted Shakespearean theatre on foreign tours, and the [Danzig Research Society](#) founded in 1743 was one of the first of its kind. Currently, there is a *Fundation Theatrum Gedanensis* aimed at rebuilding [the Shakespeare theatre](#) at its historical site. It is expected that Gdańsk will have a permanent English-language theatre, as at present it is only an [annual event](#).

## Famous people

[[edit](#)]

See also: *Category:People from Gdańsk*

See also: *List of people from Gdańsk*

See also: *List of people from Danzig*

See also: *List of mayors of Gdańsk*

See also: *List of mayors of Danzig*

See also: *List of Dukes of Gdańsk*



Neptune's Fountain in the centre of the Long Market, a masterpiece by a Dutch architect Abraham van den Blocke, 1617.<sup>[36][37]</sup>



Royal Chapel of the Polish King - [John III Sobieski](#) was built in [baroque](#) style between 1678-1681 by [Tylman Gamerski](#).<sup>[38]</sup>

## Transportation

[\[edit\]](#)

- **Gdańsk Lech Wałęsa Airport** - an international airport located in Gdańsk;
- **Port of Gdańsk** - a seaport located on the southern coast of **Gdańsk Bay** within the city;
- **Gdańsk Główny (PKP station)** - major railway passenger station with **PKP Intercity** and SKM service;
- **Szybka Kolej Miejska** - an urban transportation service of *Tricity*;
- City buses and trams are operated by **ZTM Gdańsk**  (Zarząd Transportu Miejskiego w Gdańsku).
- **Obwodnica Trójmiejska** - part of **expressway S6** that bypasses the cities of **Gdynia**, **Sopot** and Gdańsk.



Gdańsk tram - Bombardier NGT6.



Train transportation provides connections with all major **Polish cities**, and with the neighbouring Kashubian Lakes region. The **A1 motorway** connects the port and city of Gdańsk with the southern border of the country.

Gdańsk is the starting point of the **EuroVelo 9** cycling route which continues southward through Poland, then into the **Czech Republic**, **Austria** and **Slovenia** before ending at the **Adriatic Sea** in **Pula**, **Croatia**.

## Sports

[\[edit\]](#)

*Main article: [Sports in Gdańsk](#)*

There are many popular **professional sports** teams in the Gdańsk and Tricity area. **Amateur sports** are played by thousands of Gdańsk citizens and also in schools of all levels (elementary, secondary, university). The city's professional **football** club is **Lechia Gdansk**. Founded in 1945, they play in the **Ekstraklasa**, Poland's top division. Their home stadium, **Stadion Lechii**, will be replaced by the under-construction **Baltic Arena** one of the four Polish stadia to host the **UEFA Euro 2012** competition.

## Politics and local government

[\[edit\]](#)

*Main article: [Politics of Gdańsk](#)*

Contemporary Gdańsk is the capital of the province called **Pomeranian Voivodeship** and is one of the major centres of economic and administrative life in Poland. Many important agencies of the state and **local government** levels have their main offices here: the Provincial Administration Office, the Provincial Government, the Ministerial Agency of the State Treasury, the Agency for Consumer and Competition Protection, the National Insurance regional office, the Court of Appeals, and the High Administrative Court.

## Regional centre

[\[edit\]](#)

**Gdańsk Voivodeship** was extended in 1999 to include most of former **Słupsk Voivodeship**, the western part of **Elbląg Voivodeship** and **Chojnice County** from **Bydgoszcz Voivodeship** to form the new **Pomeranian Voivodeship**. The area of the region was thus extended from 7,394 km<sup>2</sup> to 18,293 km<sup>2</sup> and the population rose from 1,333,800 (1980) to 2,198,000 (2000). By 1998, **Tricity** constituted an **absolute majority** of the population; almost half of the inhabitants of the new region live in the centre.

## Education and science

[\[edit\]](#)

There are 14 universities with a total of 60,436 students, including 10,439 graduates as of 2001.

- **Gdańsk University** (Uniwersytet Gdański)
- **Gdańsk University of Technology** (Politechnika Gdańska)
- **Gdańsk Medical University** (Gdański Uniwersytet Medyczny)
- Academy of Physical Education and Sport of Gdansk (Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego i Sportu im. Jędrzeja Śniadeckiego)
- Musical Academy (Akademia Muzyczna im. Stanisława Moniuszki)
- Arts Academy (Akademia Sztuk Pięknych) <sup>[4]</sup>
- Instytut Budownictwa Wodnego PAN
- Ateneum – Szkoła Wyższa
- Gdańska Wyższa Szkoła Humanistyczna
- Gdańska Wyższa Szkoła Administracji
- Wyższa Szkoła Bankowa
- Wyższa Szkoła Społeczno-Ekonomiczna
- Wyższa Szkoła Turystyki i Hotelarstwa w Gdańsku
- Wyższa Szkoła Zarządzania



Gdańsk University, Law and Administration Department

## Scientific and regional organizations

[[edit](#)]

- **Gdańsk Scientific Society**
- **Baltic Institute** (Instytut Bałtycki), established 1925 in **Toruń**, since 1946 (?) in Gdańsk
- TNOiK - Towarzystwo Naukowe Organizacji i Kierowania (Scientific Society for Organization and Management) O/Gdańsk
- IBNGR - Instytut Badań nad Gospodarką Rynkową (The Gdańsk Institute for **Market Economics**) <sup>[39]</sup>

## International relations

[[edit](#)]

*See also: [List of twin towns and sister cities in Poland](#)*

## Twin towns — Sister cities

[[edit](#)]

Gdańsk is **twinned** with:<sup>[40]</sup>[[in chronological order](#)]

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Bremen</b> in <b>Germany</b> <i>(since 1976)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                  | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Rouen</b> in <b>France</b> <i>(since 1992)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                          | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Rotterdam</b> in <b>Netherlands</b> <i>(since 1998)</i> <sup>[40]</sup> |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Turku</b> in <b>Finland</b> <i>(since 1987)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                   | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Kaliningrad</b> in <b>Russia</b> <i>(since 1993)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                    | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Vilnius</b> in <b>Lithuania</b> <i>(since 1998)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>     |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Barcelona</b> in <b>Spain</b> <i>(since 1990)</i> <sup>[40]</sup> <sup>[41]</sup> | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Sefton</b> in <b>United Kingdom</b> <i>(since 1993)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                 | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Nice</b> in <b>France</b> <i>(since 1999)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>           |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Cleveland</b> in <b>United States</b> <i>(since 1990)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>         | • <span><span></span></span> <b>St. Petersburg</b> in <b>Russia</b> <i>(since 1993)</i> <sup>[40]</sup> <sup>[42]</sup> | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Shanghai, China</b> <i>(since 2004)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                 |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Kalmar</b> in <b>Sweden</b> <i>(since 1991)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                   | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Astana</b> in <b>Kazakhstan</b> <i>(since 1996)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                     | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Palermo, Italy</b> <i>(since 2005)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                  |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Helsingør</b> in <b>Denmark</b> <i>(since 1992)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>               | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Odessa</b> in <b>Ukraine</b> <i>(since 1996)</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                        | • <span><span></span></span> <b>Bytów</b> in <b>Poland</b> <i>(since 2007)</i> <sup>[43]</sup>          |
| • <span><span></span></span> <b>Marseille</b> in <b>France</b>  |   |   |

(since 1992) <sup>[40]</sup>



Panorama of Gdańsk



## See also

[edit]

- [764 Gedania](#) - a minor planet orbiting the Sun
- [Danzig Highflyer](#)
- [Danzig law](#)
- [Pomeranian Voivodeship](#)
- [List of corporations in Gdańsk](#)
- [List of neighbourhoods of Gdańsk](#)
- [Space of Freedom](#) - Jean Michel Jarre's concert (26 August 2005)
- [St. Mary's Church, Gdańsk](#)
- [Father Eugeniusz Dutkiewicz SAC Hospice](#)

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- ↑ **<sup>a</sup>** **<sup>b</sup>** "Poland - largest cities (per geographical entity)" [World Gazetteer](#). Retrieved 2009-05-05.
- ↑ "From the history of Gdańsk city name, as explained at Gdansk Guide" [Gdansk Guide](#)
- ↑ Adrian Room, *Placenames of the World, 2nd Ed.* [1] [Quote](#): "The city has a Gothic name, from Gutisk-andja, "end of the Goths," as these people's territory extended to here. The city's former German name, Danzig, misleadingly suggests an association with the Danes."
- ↑ Dennis H. Green, *The Visigoths from the Migration Period to the Seventh Century* [2] [Quote](#): "...the difficulty with Gdańsk, Gdynia and *gudas*... in the Polish coastal area centuries before the Goths are known to have occupied this region... casts doubt on the theory of Gothic origin."
- ↑ **<sup>a</sup>** **<sup>b</sup>** Carl Tighe, "Gdańsk: national identity in the Polish-German borderlands", Pluto Press, 1990, [3] [Gdańsk: national identity in the Polish-German borderlands](#)
- ↑ Marian Gumowski: *Handbuch der polnischen Siegelkunde, 1966* [Handbuch der polnischen Siegelkunde, 1966](#)
- ↑ Britannica 11th edition (published in 1911) [Britannica 11th edition \(published in 1911\)](#)
- ↑ Gdańsk, in: Kazimierz Rymut, *Nazwy Miast Polski*, Ossolineum, Wrocław 1987
- ↑ Hubert Gurnowicz, *Gdańsk*, in: *Nazwy miast Pomorza Gdańskiego*, Ossolineum, Wrocław 1978
- ↑ *Baedeker's Northern Germany*, Karl Baedeker Publishing, Leipzig 1904
- ↑ **<sup>a</sup>** **<sup>b</sup>** **<sup>c</sup>** Hess, Corina (2007). *Danziger Wohnkultur in der frühen Neuzeit*. Berlin-Hamburg-Münster: LIT Verlag. p. 40. ISBN 3825887111.


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14. <sup>^</sup> <sup>**a b c d e f**</sup> Hess, Corina (2007). *Danziger Wohnkultur in der frühen Neuzeit*. Berlin-Hamburg-Münster: LIT Verlag. p. 41. ISBN 3825887111.
15. <sup>^</sup> <sup>**a b c**</sup> Hartmut Boockmann, *Ostpreussen und Westpreussen*, Siedler, 2002, p.158, ISBN 3-88680-212-4
16. <sup>^</sup> <sup>**a b**</sup> James Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations: A Historical Dictionary of European National Groups*, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000, ISBN 0313309841, p.376
17. <sup>^</sup> Thomas Urban: "Rezydencja książąt Pomorskich ". (Polish)
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19. <sup>^</sup> <sup>**a b**</sup> Hess, Corina (2007). *Danziger Wohnkultur in der frühen Neuzeit*. Berlin-Hamburg-Münster: LIT Verlag. p. 42. ISBN 3825887111.
20. <sup>^</sup> From "Poland. Chronology
21. <sup>^</sup> From Danzig - Gdansk until 1920
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24. <sup>^</sup> <sup>**a b c**</sup> Hess, Corina (2007). *Danziger Wohnkultur in der frühen Neuzeit*. Berlin-Hamburg-Münster: LIT Verlag. p. 45. ISBN 3825887111.
25. <sup>^</sup> Hess, Corina (2007). *Danziger Wohnkultur in der frühen Neuzeit*. Berlin-Hamburg-Münster: LIT Verlag. p. 45. ISBN 3825887111.: "Geben wir und verlehen unnsir Stadt Danczk das sie zcu ewigen geczeiten nymands for eynem herrn halden noc gehorsam zcu weszen seyn sullen in weltlichen sachen."
26. <sup>^</sup> Bömelburg, Hans-Jürgen, *Zwischen polnischer Ständegesellschaft und preußischem Obrigkeitsstaat: vom Königlichen Preußen zu Westpreußen (1756-1806)*, München: Oldenbourg, 1995, (Schriften des Bundesinstituts für Ostdeutsche Kultur und Geschichte (Oldenburg); 5), zugl.: Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg-Univ., Diss., 1993, 549 pp.
27. <sup>^</sup> (Polish) "The Main Town Hall" . *www.mhmg.gda.pl*. Retrieved 2008-12-29.
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43. ^ [Bytów official web site](#) 


## External links

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- [Official Tourist Board website](#)  - Tourist Guide as well as shopping guide
- (Polish) [Virtual Gdańsk](#)  (portal)
- [Mariacka Street Panoramic Photo](#) 
- <http://www.gdanskmiasto.pl/>  (Polish)



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