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A melting pot of cultures, peoples, and languages, Gdansk features a mix of Polish, Prussian, and German influences from a long and often turbulent history. Here are five ways to enjoy the city.

Gdansk IN 24 HOURS

WHERE TO STAY

Step back in time in truly royal style at the sophisticated and luxurious *Hotel Podewils* on the banks of the Motława River. Located in a former suburban manor house from the 18th century, it captivates guests with its sense of elegance and opulence as soon as they step through the door. For a truly traditional Polish experience, the hotel's award-winning *River Restaurant* is not to be missed. Prices from EUR 64; Szafarnia 2; podewils.pl



WHERE TO DINE

Restauracja Gdańska will transport you back to the 17th century with its beautifully ornate walls, maritime decorations, period furniture, and model ships. A favourite among illustrious personalities such as Lech Wałęsa, here you can even order the Presidential Menu, which features rich, traditional Polish flavours such as Gdansk smoked salmon with caviar and stuffed pierogi in a borscht soup coupled with a few shots of *Wałęsówka* vodka. Świętego Ducha 16/24; gdanska.pl

WHERE TO SHOP

Gdansk may be the capital of amber, but no trip to this city is complete without trying its local firewater. The famous *Goldwasser* has been a popular tradition since 1598. A strong herbal liqueur made from more than 20 herbs and spices, it features flakes of 23-karat gold floating inside the bottle. Długie Pobrzeże 22; goldwassergdansk.com.pl

WHY NOT?

For an experience that's unique to Gdansk, take a mini-cruise to Westerplatte aboard the 17th-century-style pirate galleons *Black Pearl* and *Leo Galleon*. Westerplatte is where the first shots of the Second World War were fired on September 1, 1939. Today you can visit the peninsula's remarkable outdoor museum, where a walkable exhibition leads you straight to the massive Monument of the Coast Defenders. Cruises start at Długie Pobrzeże 11

A CLASSIC NOT TO MISS

The famous St. Mary's Basilica is officially one of the three largest brick churches in the world. Known as the Crown of Gdansk, it dates back to the 14th century, making it one of the oldest churches in the city as well. Several masterpieces adorn its interior – including the astronomical clock – and if you look up, you'll see just about the most beautiful stellar vaulted ceiling in the whole of Poland. Podkramarska 5; bazylikamariacka.gdansk.pl

