

2016 SCOR Annual Meeting in Sopot, Poland

Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN)

5-7 September 2016, Sopot, Poland



LOCAL CONTACTS

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Institute of Oceanology
Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN)
Powstańców Warszawy 55
81-712 Sopot - Poland



VENUE

The meeting will take place at the [Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences](#) in Sopot, Poland.

The address is:

Institute of Oceanology
Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN)
Powstańców Warszawy 55
81-712 Sopot, Poland

The institute's conference room is equipped with modern multimedia facilities. All participants will have access to Wi-Fi (also via EDUROAM).



Photo 1: IO PAN bird's eye view, main entrance and logo on the building wall visible as from Powstańców Warszawy St.

Further details on local arrangements and available facilities will follow later.

AIR TRAVEL

The only airport in the vicinity of Sopot is the [Lech Walesa Airport \(GDN\)](#) in Gdańsk, ca. 17 km away from the venue.

The airport is very well connected with many European cities. There are also several flights a day connecting to intercontinental hubs, such as Copenhagen with SAS, Munich and Frankfurt with Lufthansa, and Warsaw with LOT Polish Airlines. Finnair and AirBerlin also offer flights between Gdańsk and Helsinki and Berlin, respectively.



Photo 2: GDN airport in Gdańsk.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

As you enter the GDN Arrivals Hall, you will see a sign post directing you towards four possible means of local transportation that can take you to downtown Sopot:

- (i) taxi
- (ii) direct bus connection
- (iii) indirect train connection

Photo 3 shows which direction you should head towards after you enter the Arrivals Halls, depending on which means of transportation you prefer. All options are described in detail below.



Photo 3: View from the GDN Arrivals Hall with directions towards train platforms, car rental desks, bus stop and taxis.

Taxi

The fastest way to get to and from the GDN airport is to take a Taxi. Taxis are always available in front of the GDN terminals.

A typical fare to downtown Sopot is around **65 PLN**, around 15 euro. To be on the safe side, we recommend that you ask the driver for the approximate fare before you board the cab.

Bus (direct)

Although the **bus #122** from the airport leaves only **every hour**, it will take you **directly to Sopot, pretty much to the doorstep of IO PAN**. It takes **1 hour** from the airport to get to the hotel area and IO PAN, so more or less the same time as the train connection.

Buses from the airport operate between 5:40 a.m. and 10:05 p.m. on weekdays, and between 7:05 a.m. and 10:05 p.m. on weekends. To get to the Airport bus stop (called 'Port Lotniczy'), turn right at the exit of the Arrivals Hall, and walk across the street towards the parking lot. The bus station is to the right. Bus 122 departs from Platform 2 (see Photo 4). Photo 4 also shows you the bus timetable. The ticket costs **3 PLN**, and can be bought from the driver directly (exact cash needed), or from the ticket machine at the airport bus stop using cash or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Maestro).



Photo 4: Bus terminal and Bus 122 timetable at the GDN airport.

After a roughly 55-minute ride you will get to downtown Sopot. Look out for the “Grand Hotel” bus stop which is just behind a short tunnel and next to a big “Sheraton” sign (Photo 5). Get off there if you head towards Grand, Sheraton and many other hotels. If you go to Hotel Haffner or IO PAN, get off at the next stop called “Korty Tenisowe.” **NB: this stop is per request only, so press the “na żądanie” or “STOP” button on the bus, or ask the bus driver to stop, right after you pass Grand Hotel.** The inconspicuous stop is in between the trees. After you get off, follow the bus for another 50 meters and you will see IO PAN on your left. Photo 5 shows the two relevant bus stops. They are also marked on Map 2 below. Map 3 gives directions to the Hotel Haffner.



Photo 5: Bus 122 stops in downtown Sopot, near Grand Hotel and IO PAN.

Buses **from Sopot to the GDN airport** operate roughly every hour between 4:20 a.m. and 9:55 p.m. on weekdays, and between 5:55 a.m. and 8:55 p.m. on weekends.

Note that to get to the airport, you first need to reach the last stop on the Sopot-bound bus (a 3-minute ride from Grand/Sheraton/IO PAN), from where after a few minutes break, the bus will continue towards the airport via another route. Below is the timetable from the Korty Tenisowe bus stop in front of IO PAN. Subtract 1 minute for the Grand Hotel stop. If you’re catching the bus at Korty Tenisowe, please wave at the driver as the bus is approaching, otherwise it might not stop.

122 Przystanek: **Sopot Korty Tenisowe (n/ż)** 4072
Kierunek: Sopot Kamienny Potok SKM

weekdays		Dni powszednie - ferie i w		weekends & holidays	
5	25	5	25	5	48
6	23	6	23	6	48
7	33	7	33	7	48
8	43	8	43	8	48
9	54	9	54	9	48
10	54	10	54	10	48
11	51	11	51	11	48
12	51	12	51	12	48
13	50	13	50	13	48
14	36	14	36	14	48
15	39	15	39	15	48
16	49	16	49	16	48
17	49	17	49	17	48
18	51	18	51	18	48
19	51	19	51	19	48
20	48	20	48	20	47
21	48	21	48	21	47
22	48	22	48	22	47

Photo 6: Bus 122 (airport-bound) timetable at the Korty Tenisowe bus stop, in front of IO PAN. Subtract 1 minute to get the times from the Grand Hotel bus stop.

Train (indirect)

There is an indirect, but inexpensive, train connection between the **GDN airport terminal** and the **Sopot central train station**, which is approximately a 20-minute walk (1.5km) away from IO PAN. **Total door-to-door trip duration is around 60-75 minutes.**

You first need to take the airport train in the direction **Gdańsk Wrzeszcz**. The train runs every 10-15 minutes during the day, and takes approximately 20-25 minutes to get to Gdańsk Wrzeszcz. Trains operate from 4:00 a.m. until shortly after midnight.

Photo 6 shows the steps you need to follow to get to the train at the GDN airport. As you enter the Arrivals Hall at GDN, you will see a sign post with directions to the train platforms. Turn to the left and climb the stairs or take the elevator to go one level up towards the "Railway station" sign. Follow the signs for Gdańsk onto Platform 1, which is the first corridor on your right behind the automatic door. In the



Map 1: Overview map of the TriCity (Gdynia-Sopot-Gdańsk) train network.

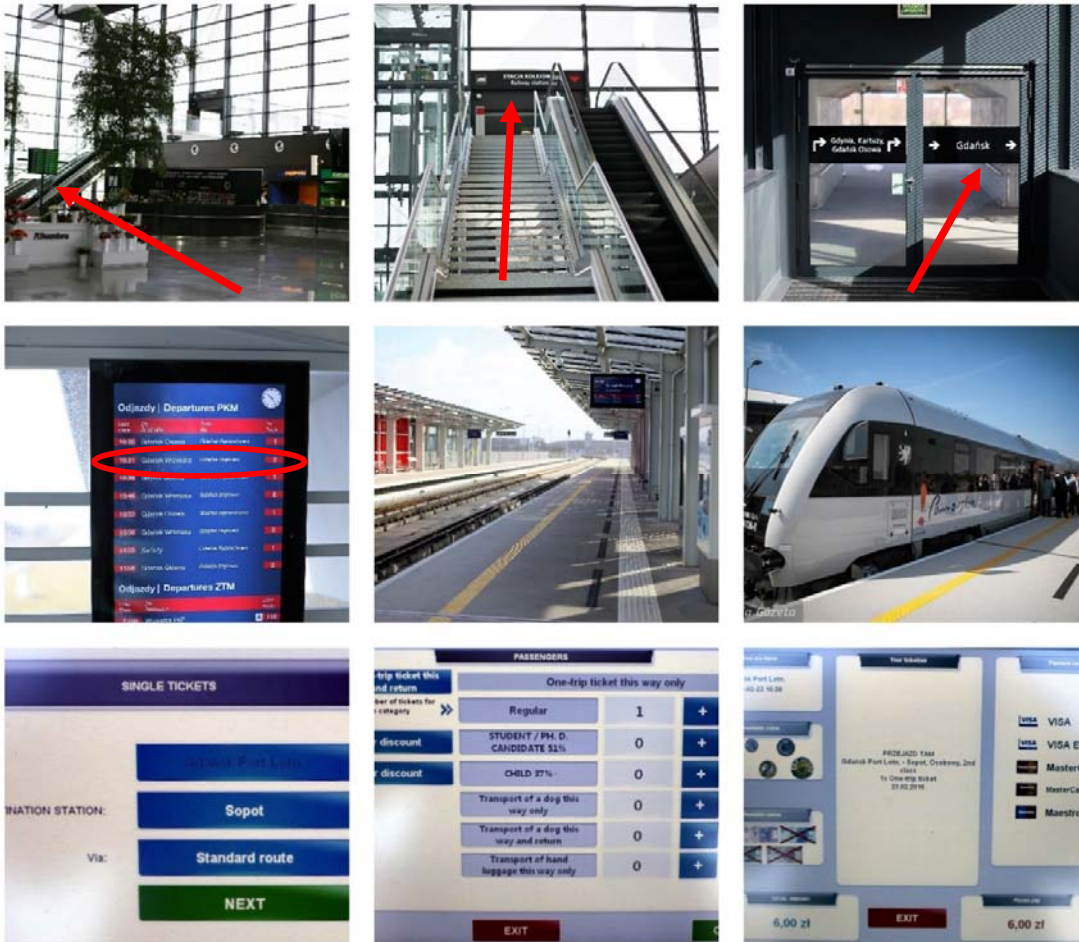


Photo 6: Some visual cues that should guide you towards the train and help purchase the right ticket.

corridor, as well as on the platforms, you will see electronic train schedules. Once on the platform, look for the ticket machine. There is an English menu. Choose Sopot as your destination and a standard route. A regular single fare ticket to Sopot costs **6 PLN**. The bottom row of Photo 5 shows you what the screen should look like if followed the steps correctly. You can pay with cash (coins or 10 PLN paper bills, or with VISA, Maestro or MasterCard). If the machine is out of order, you can purchase the ticket from the conductor on board the train. Every train that arrives at Platform 1 will take you to Gdańsk Wrzeszcz. It is labelled with a “Pomorskie!” sign.

The train will arrive in Gdańsk Wrzeszcz either on Platform 1 or 2. To change for the Sopot train, walk off the platform and into the tunnel, and turn left. **Follow the signs for Platform 3** where the local SKM trains are running in two directions. These trains are usually painted **yellow and blue** (Photo 7). As you emerge from the tunnel onto Platform 3, look to the track on your right (Track 501). Every train on that track will stop in Sopot, no matter its final destination. Depending on the time of day, the trains will depart every 7 to 30 minutes. Get off at Sopot central station which is the 6th stop, so after 12 minutes.

When you get off the train in Sopot, walk down to the tunnel and right into the main hall. To walk to your hotel or the venue, turn left and leave the station following the signs for the Bohaterów Monte Cassino St., or go straight out of the building if you'd rather take a taxi from here. If you decide to walk, after 300 meters or so you should enter a large square with a prominent neo-gothic church to your right (Photo 7).

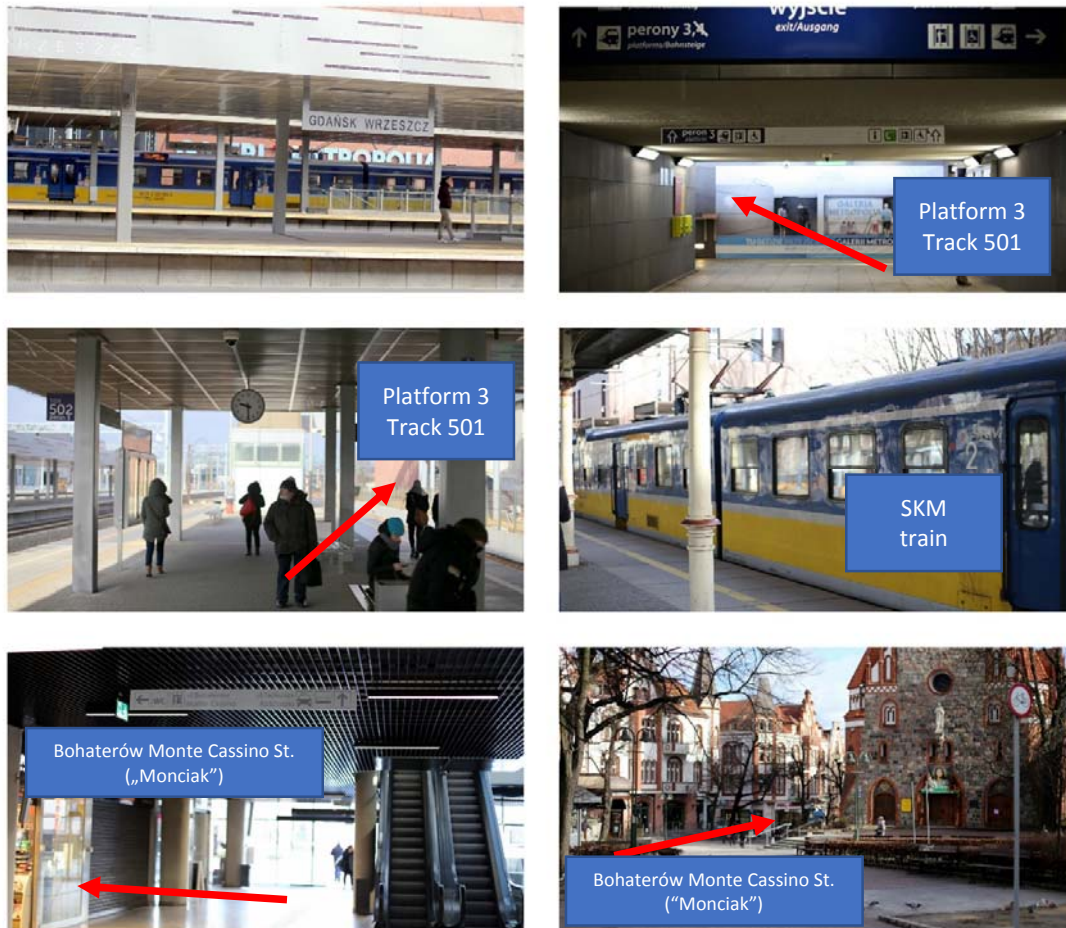
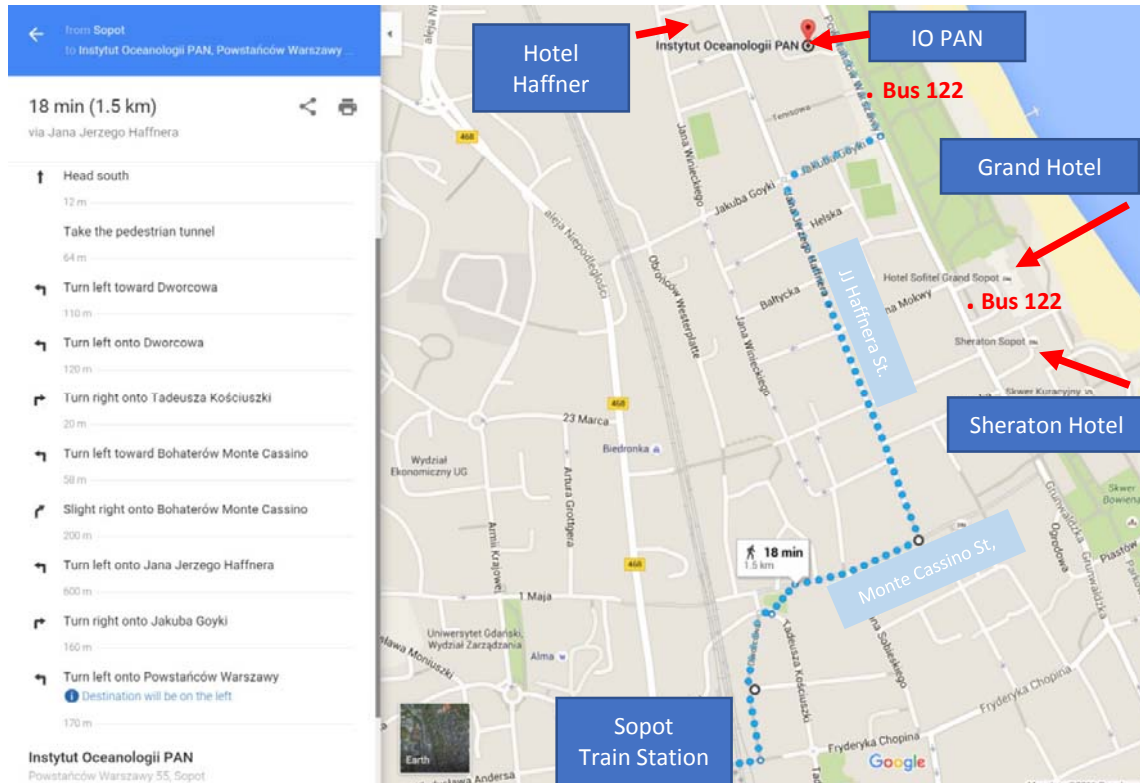


Photo 7: (From top left to bottom right) Platforms at Gdańsk Wrzeszcz train station; station tunnel; Platform 3 from which SKM trains depart; a typical SKM train; Sopot central station hall; the top of Bohaterów Monte Cassino pedestrian zone in Sopot.

Sopot Train Station → IO PAN/Hotel Haffner

If you're going straight to the venue, walk down the main pedestrian zone (Monte Cassino commonly called "Monciak") left of the church, and continue until you see Jana Jerzego Haffnera St. on your left. Follow it for a few hundred meters. To get to Hotel Haffner, continue until street no. 59. To get to IO PAN, turn right into Jakuba Goyki St., and then left into Powstańców Warszawy St. IO PAN will be 100

meters to your left. Please see Map 2 for detailed directions, and Map 3 for directions on how to get to IO PAN from Hotel Haffner.



Map 2: Direction from Sopot Central Train Station to IOPAN, with marked locations of Hotel Haffner, Grand Hotel and Hotel Sheraton.

Hotel Haffner → IO PAN

Map 3 shows the directions from Hotel Haffner to IO PAN. The walk takes **less than 5 minutes**. As you leave the hotel, turn left and **head north on Jana Jerzego Haffnera St.** toward Wosia Budzysza St. **Turn right onto Wosia Budzysza**, and after 150 m again **right onto Powstańców Warszawy St.**

IO PAN will be on your right and you can enter through the main gate after another 100 m.



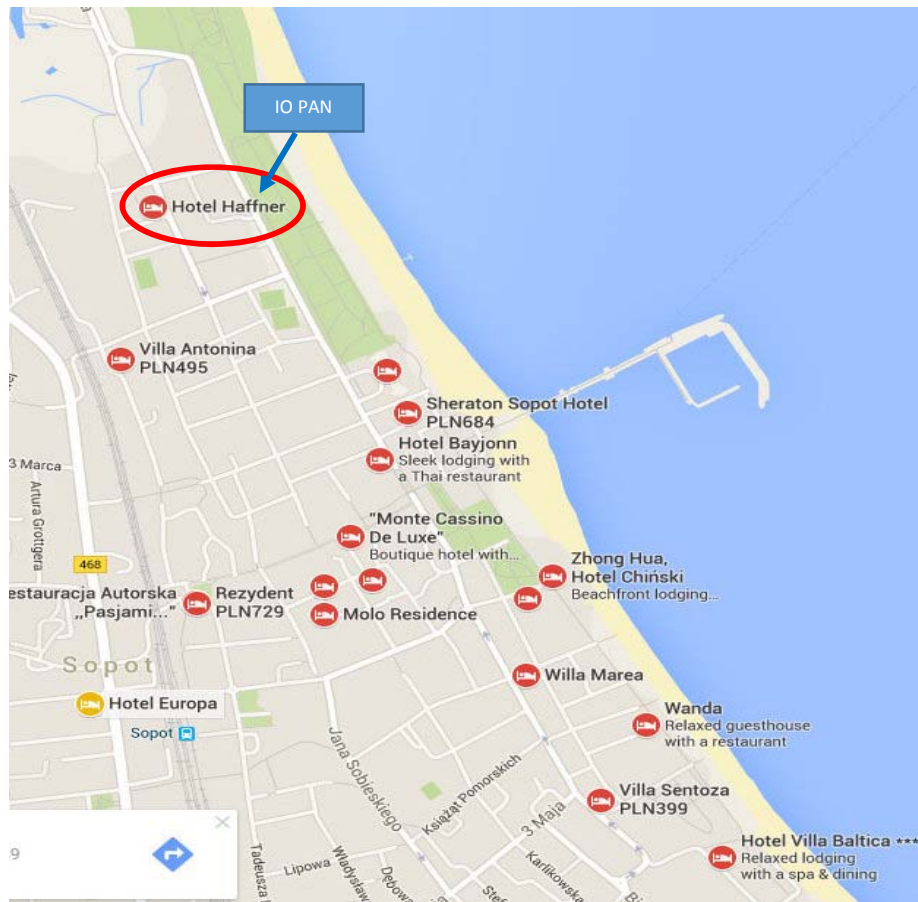
Map 3: Walking directions from Hotel Haffner to IO PAN.

HOTEL

The Institute pre-booked 40 rooms in Hotel Haffner at a special discount!

A special link for the booking:

<https://upperbooking.com//pl/booking/details/wrap/hotelhaffner/44373/konferencja-scor?promocode=scor>



Map 4: Map of hotels and villas in the Sopot area, with Hotel Haffner and IO PAN marked separately

Hotel Haffner
ul. J.J. Haffnera 59
81-715 Sopot

tel. (+ 48 58) 550 99 99
fax (+ 48 58) 550 98 00
office@hotelhaffner.pl
<http://www.hotelhaffner.com/booking.com>
[TripAdvisor reviews](#)



WEATHER

The September temperatures in Sopot are moderate with an **average normal temperature of 15°C**, average coldest equal to 11°C and average warmest equal to 20°C. There are on **average 13 days of rain** in September, and **6-7 hours of sunlight a day**.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Sopot offers many fantastic opportunities for sports and recreation activities, especially in the summer time. You can go jogging for kilometres along the beach that stretches from Gdynia to Gdańsk, or along a boulevard located right by the beach. The boulevard is also an ideal place for rollerblading and biking. If you rent a bike, please be aware that there is a 10 km/h speed limit enforced on the bikers all along the boulevard! There are also tennis courts right next to the institute building.

CURRENCY

The official currency in Poland is Polish Złoty (PLN). You can find the approximate exchange rates at <http://www.ex.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS

Majority of credit cards are widely accepted in most places. There is no problem with paying with VISA/VISA Electron, Maestro or MasterCard. American Express tends not to be accepted. ATMs are densely distributed around the city.

LANGUAGE

Most Polish speak some English, some Polish speak very good English.

GASTRONOMY

Sopot is a major health-spa and tourist resort destination for visitors from all over Europe and beyond. It is also the second largest centre of nightlife and entertainment in Poland, second only to Warsaw.

There is a great number of bars, pubs, restaurants and clubs all around Sopot, most of which are located along the Bohaterów Monte Cassino Pedestrian Zone, known among the locals as the 'Monciak'. It stretches from the central train station to the Sopot Pier.

You can get a **coffee for around 10-15 PLN. Beers start at 10 PLN. NB: it is illegal to drink alcohol in public places in Poland.**

You can get a quick lunch at a bar for around 20-40 PLN. **Lunch or dinner at a restaurant will mostly be in the 40-140 PLN range.**

VISAS

Most visitors will not require a visa to enter Poland. However, please double check your status at this link: http://www.ms.gov.pl/en/travel_to_poland/entering_poland/

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your local contacts should you require assistance with the visa application process.

OTHER PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Electricity

- Voltage: 220-240 Volts (U.S./Canada are 110-120 Volts)
- Primary Socket Type: Europlug, Schuko
- 110-120V electronics: Plug adapter + step-down transformer
- Hair dryers, curling irons, etc.: Plug adapter + voltage converter

Take a look at this illustration to check which plug you can use to connect your device:



Photo 8: Plugs that work and don't work in Poland.

Tax

A 23% VAT tax is usually automatically added to all purchased products. All receipts and bills should have that information specified.

Tipping

For most services offered in Poland, you do not need to feel obliged to leave a tip. However, it is customary to leave a small tip (ca. 10-15%) at bars and restaurants offering waiting staff.

International driver's licenses

You need an international driver's license to drive a car on Polish roads unless your driver's license was issued by a country within the European Union.

Emergency

In case of emergencies, please use these toll-free phone numbers to receive immediate help from the public authorities:

Emergency Centre: 112 (when in doubt who to call, call this number)

Ambulance: **999**

Fire Department: **998**

Police: **997**

Anti-terrorist Centre: **996**

Road Vehicle Assistance: **981**

DAY TRIP ATTRACTIONS

There are many diverse cultural and recreational attractions in Sopot and the TriCity area (Gdynia-Sopot-Gdańsk). Sopot is the summer capital of Poland with its many health-spa and recreation attractions. Gdańsk is one of the oldest cities in Poland and has been a stage for many of Poland's dramatic events in history, such as the birth of the Lech Wałęsa-led Solidarity movement, which directly helped abolish Soviet rule and establish a modern democratic Poland in 1989. Gdynia is one of the youngest cities in Poland, yet it is considered, for several years in a row now, the best city to live in according to polls of Poles.

With a short train-, bus- or taxi- ride, you can enjoy many of the local attractions. Below we recommend 3 trips that you could combine and do in one day if you have some free time on your hands. Your local contacts will be happy to give you further information and possibly organize a group trip should there be enough interest.

Trip #1: A visit to the **European Solidarity Centre (ECS)**

The ECS is a state-of-the-art cultural institution that honours our greatest civic success—the victorious Solidarity movement. It is a museum that commemorates the revolution of Solidarity and the fall of communism in Europe, but it is also an educational, research and academic centre, an archive, library and multimedia library. Last but not least, it is a public meeting space for citizens who feel responsible for the development of democracy, a place where solidarity and citizenship are put into practice. It offers an interactive, multimedia-driven experience. Well recommended by your local hosts.



Photo 10: European Solidarity Centre

The Centre is open Monday to Sunday, from 10AM to 8PM. A ticket costs 17 PLN. You can pay both cash and credit card.

Here's a [link](#) to a 3-minute virtual tour of the Centre.

Trip #2: A walk through the **Gdańsk Old Town**

A strategic and highly influential port for nearly a thousand years, Gdańsk was a stronghold of the Teutonic Knights, and later became an influential city within the Hanseatic League during the Middle Ages. The League was created to protect economic interests and diplomatic privileges in the cities and countries and along the trade routes the merchants visited. The Hanseatic cities had their own legal system and furnished their own armies for mutual protection and aid.

Partially destroyed in the Second World War, Gdańsk was splendidly rebuilt in the aftermath as one of Europe's most beautiful port cities. Today, Gdańsk has a population of 460,000, and is Poland's largest northern city, drawing numerous visitors into its historic city centre, its outstanding museums, and to its expansive beaches spread along the coast of the Gulf of Gdańsk, making it a popular summer destination for many Poles and foreign visitors alike.



Photo 11: Gdańsk Old Town and waterfront.

As you walk through the old Town, you will recognize the typical Hanzeatic architecture akin to that seen in Lübeck, Bremen, Bergen, etc.

We recommend you to follow the so-called [European Route of Brick Gothic in Gdańsk](#).

Trip #3: A visit to **Westerplatte**

Westerplatte is a peninsula in Gdańsk, located on the Baltic Sea coast mouth of the Dead Vistula (one of the Vistula delta estuaries), in the Gdańsk harbour channel. It is famous for the Battle of Westerplatte, which was the first clash between Polish and German forces during the Invasion of Poland and thus the first battle of the European theatre of World War II. Starting on September 1, 1939, the Germans repeatedly bombarded Westerplatte with naval artillery and heavy field artillery along with dive-bombing raids by Junkers Ju 87 Stukas. Repeated attacks by 3,500 German soldiers were repelled by the 180 Polish soldiers for seven days – making Westerplatte the symbol of Polish heroic resistance.



Photo 12: Westerplatte memorial park.



Today there is an outdoors exhibition and an educational trail on the Westerplatte peninsula. It can be reached from the Gdańsk old town by boat making it an easy addition to the visit. Click [HERE](#) for more details on how to get there.