



My travel book
Gdansk



1 **Golden House** ★★★



Długa PL - Gdansk

Architecture, castles and historic districts

Two gables to the right of the Artus Court (n°41), the fine façade of this 1609 house is striking on account of its rich ornamentation, notably the twelve friezes created between 1609 and 1818 by Rostok artist Johann Voight, separated at each storey by four busts (two of which are the Polish kings Ladislas Jagellon and Sigismund III Vasa), and topped with a balustrade surmounted by statues of Classical figures: Cleopatra, Oedipus, Achilles and Antigone.

Website : <http://www.pttk-gdansk.pl>

2 **Medieval Crane** ★★★



Długie Pobrzeże PL - Gdansk

Industrial tourism and theme park

Originally used to unload cargoes, this wooden crane has a majestic silhouette. The largest medieval machine of its kind in Europe, it is today the symbol of Gdansk. Rebuilt in 1444 after a fire, it was enhanced in the 17C with the addition of an upper structure capable of lifting two tonnes 27m into the air (useful for the erection of tall masts). Severely damaged in the war, it was restored between 1955 and 1962 and is now part of the **Central Maritime Museum**.

Website : <http://www.pttk-gdansk.pl>

3 **Long Market** ★★★



Długi Targ PL - 80-828 Gdansk

Architecture, castles and historic districts

This square was once the centre of activity in Gdansk: the main market, popular festivals and performances were held here. The typical houses with sculpted front stoops above cellar entrances have been restored. In the centre of the square, the Neptune Fountain dates from the 17C. **Artus House** was a place for local merchants to gather. **Golden House**, adjoining it, is decorated with bas-reliefs and busts. Here Brutus and Horace are eye to eye with two Kings of Poland!

4 **Malbork Castle** ★★★



Staroscinska 1 PL - 82-200 Malbork

Architecture, castles and historic districts



Southeast of Gdansk, Malbork Castle was the seat of the Teutonic Knights, who had their headquarters here from 1308 to 1457. It is the largest medieval fortress in Europe. Covering 21ha, the huge red brick construction rises imposingly on the right bank of the River Nogat. Although the aged nature of the structure seems in places artificial, this castle (an icon for the 19C Romantic movement) has since 1997 been a Unesco World Heritage site.

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