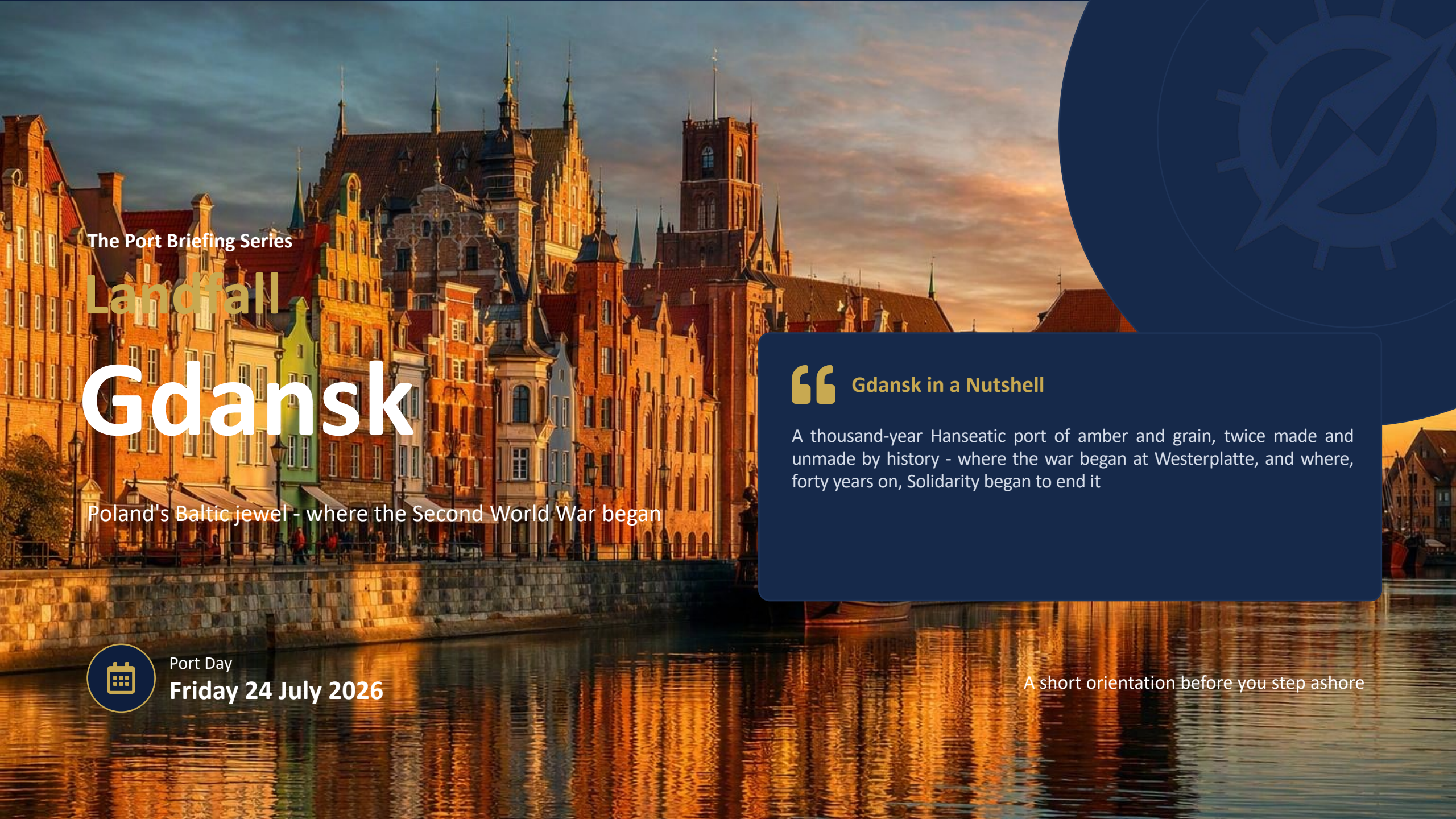






The Port Briefing Series

Landfall

Gdansk

Poland's Baltic jewel - where the Second World War began



Gdansk in a Nutshell

A thousand-year Hanseatic port of amber and grain, twice made and unmade by history - where the war began at Westerplatte, and where, forty years on, Solidarity began to end it



Port Day

Friday 24 July 2026

A short orientation before you step ashore

Provisional Timings for the Day



0900
Alongside

>



0930
Gangway Open

>



1730
All Aboard

>



1800
Departure



Alongside
At Westerplatte

moored beside the monument where the war began



The Old Town
A Shuttle Away

the medieval heart is 15 to 20 minutes by road



About 7 Hours
Time Ashore

enough for the Old Town or one big excursion



Zloty
Not Euros

Poland keeps its own currency - carry some, or use a card



Watch For - Sailing In and Out



The Westerplatte Monument - the towering memorial to the war's first defenders, right beside the berth



The shipyard cranes - the vast Gdansk Shipyard where Solidarity was born, along the waterway in



The Wisloujskie Fortress (viss-wo-OOYSH-cheh) - the old brick fort guarding the harbour mouth



Time Ashore

About 8 Hours

a shortish day - with the shuttle each way, choose one focus
The Old Town needs a shuttle or taxi - leave time each way



Next Port of Call **Klaipeda**
Sat 25 Jul, 0930 - along the coast to Lithuania

Landfall · Gdansk Baltic Sea

Orientation

Where in the World

● Sopot

● Gdynia

● **Gdansk**

Baltic Sea



On the Baltic

on the southern shore of the Baltic, at the mouth of the Motlawa (mot-WAH-va), where Poland's grain long met the sea



The Tricity

Gdansk joins its neighbours Sopot and Gdynia in a coastal metropolis of about a million people

Gdansk Old Town

Gdansk Cruise Terminal

Approx. 6 km from
Gdansk Old Town

POLAND



Local Time - Central European

One hour ahead of the UK - follow the ship's daily programme for all-aboard

+2h

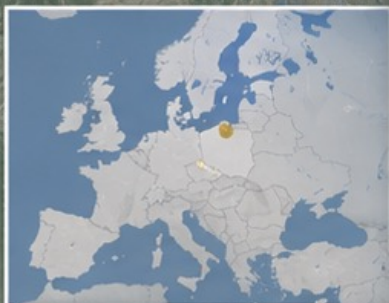
vs GMT

+1h

vs UK

+6h

vs New York



The Facts at a Glance



38 Million People

in Poland - the Gdansk Tricity holds about a million of them



The Polish Zloty

Poland is in the EU, but keeps its own currency - not the euro



A Parliamentary Republic

free and democratic since 1989, and in the European Union since 2004



Driving on the Right

as across the Continent - mind the crossings



Deeply Catholic

the homeland of Pope John Paul the Second, a source of national pride



Amber and the Sea

Gdansk is the world's amber capital, and a great seafaring city



The Polish Flag white above red - the white of the eagle and the red of the field it flies on, a simple banner carried through partition, war and revival

What Poland Is Known For



Amber

Baltic gold - washed up and worked along this coast for thousands of years



Pierogi

The beloved stuffed dumplings (pih-ROH-gee), savoury or sweet, and much more besides



Chopin

The great Romantic composer (SHOW-pan), the very soul of Polish music



Pope John Paul II

The Polish pope who helped stir his nation, and a continent, towards freedom



Solidarity

The movement, born in Gdansk, that broke communism's hold on Europe



Vodka

The national spirit (wodka), clear and cold - and best taken as a toast

What Gdansk Is Known For



The Long Market

Đlugi Targ (DWOO-gee TARG) and Neptune's Fountain, the golden heart of the city



Amber

The world's amber capital, its lanes and workshops aglow with Baltic gold



Shipyard and Solidarity

Where the movement that changed Europe was born, in 1980



Westerplatte

The peninsula where the Second World War began, on 1 September 1939



St Mary's Church

Said to be the largest brick church in the world, towering over the town



The Crane

The great medieval port crane (Zuraw, ZHOO-rav) on the Motława waterfront

A Famous Son of the Town



Daniel Fahrenheit

1686 - 1736

Born and baptised here in Gdansk, the instrument-maker who gave the world the mercury thermometer and the temperature scale that still bears his name - so every 'degrees Fahrenheit' is, in a sense, a word from this city



The Mercury Thermometer

In 1714 he made the first accurate mercury-in-glass thermometer - a leap for science, medicine and the sea



A Son of St Mary's

Baptised in the great brick church and schooled in the city, before a life spent in the Dutch Republic



In Good Company

Gdansk also gave the world the philosopher Schopenhauer and the Nobel novelist Gunter Grass

Three Things They Will Not Tell You

1



The Town Needs a Shuttle

You berth at Westerplatte, not the Old Town - a 15 to 20-minute shuttle or taxi to the medieval heart, though the war memorial is right on your doorstep

2



Zloty, Not Euros

Poland keeps its own currency, and euros and dollars are widely refused in shops and cafes - so draw a little zloty, or lean on a contactless card

3



A Short Day, One Choice

All aboard is 1700, so with the shuttle each way you realistically pick one thing - the Old Town, or a big excursion like Malbork, but not both



Don't Mention... Poles see their country as Central Europe, not 'Eastern' - occupied and then communist, but never willingly so; and it is Gdansk today, not the old Danzig

Money - What It Buys



Zloty

Poland's own currency (ZWOH-tih) - not the euro, despite EU membership

£1 buys about **5.0 zl**

€1 buys about **3.8 zl**

So a 28-zloty plate of pierogi is about 5 pounds 70



Cards are taken almost everywhere - carry a little cash only for small stalls

Indicative mid-market rates, late July 2026

What You Might Reasonably Pay



Coffee

15 zl

about £3



Water

5 zl

about £1



A Beer

15 zl

about £3



Pierogi

28 zl

about £5.70



Top Tips to Save



Westerplatte and its memorial grounds are free, and right by the ship



Wandering the Old Town and the Long Market costs nothing at all



St Mary's is by donation - only the tower climb carries a small charge



Browse the amber lanes of Mariacka Street for free - buy only if tempted

Why Here? The Founding



997

A Thousand Years by the Baltic

Gdansk first enters the record in 997, when Saint Adalbert came to baptise its people - and for a thousand years it grew rich as the port where Poland's grain met the sea



The Granary of Europe

Down the Vistula came the grain of the Polish plains, shipped from Gdansk across the Baltic and far beyond



Hanseatic Wealth

The Hanseatic League's trade made it a city of gabled merchant houses, granaries, and the great medieval Crane



Polish and Proud

Long a self-governing royal city of the Polish crown, jealous of its liberties and its wealth

Westerplatte, 1 September 1939

The First Shots of the Second World War

Just before dawn, the German battleship Schleswig-Holstein - in the harbour on a 'courtesy visit' - opened fire on the small Polish military depot at Westerplatte. Some 180 defenders, expected to hold for hours, held out for seven days. It was the opening battle of a war that would consume the world and cost sixty million lives - and it began here, a few hundred metres from where your ship now lies



The guns opened fire at 0448 - and you moor today beside the monument raised to those who fell

Two Hundred Years Ago



1820s

Prussian Danzig

Two centuries ago there was no Poland on the map - partitioned away by its neighbours. Danzig, seized by Prussia, was a German-speaking port, recovering from the ruinous Napoleonic sieges

Poland erased

Partitioned between Prussia, Russia and Austria, Poland vanished as a state from 1795 until 1918

A Prussian port

Danzig, German-speaking, rebuilt its trade under Prussia after Napoleon's brief Free City and its sieges

The grain endured

Down the Vistula the grain still came, and the old Hanseatic wealth slowly returned

A Century to Now



1939

War Begins

The Second World War opens with the very first shots, here at Westerplatte



1945

Ruin and Rebirth

The city left 90 percent in ruins - resettled by Poles who rebuilt the old town brick by brick



1980

Solidarity

Lech Walesa (vah-WEN-sa) and the shipyard workers found Solidarity, lighting the fuse under communism



Today

Reborn

A beautifully restored, confident city, proud of its amber, history and hard-won freedom

Where You Berth - Alongside



Alongside at Westerplatte

We dock at the Westerplatte quay - no tender - moored beside the very peninsula where the Second World War began, its monument a few minutes' walk away



The Old Town, a Shuttle Away

The medieval heart is 6 km off - take the shuttle, a taxi, or a boat up the Motlawa; it is not a walk from the ship

The Best View - and the Walk



The Best View

The Motlawa Waterfront

The gabled facades and the great Crane mirrored in the river - the loveliest scene in Gdansk, and a short stroll once you are in the Old Town



The Motlawa Embankment - the row of merchant gables, the Crane and the river craft - the classic Gdansk picture



St Mary's Tower - climb the 405 steps of the vast brick church for a panorama over the red roofs



Westerplatte - by the ship, the memorial grounds and the towering monument - a moving, level walk



The Royal Way

Golden Gate to Green Gate

0.5 km / 0.3 mi · 10 min · flat, the grand axis

Long Market and Neptune

in the middle · linger · the golden heart

Mariacka amber street

0.2 km / 0.1 mi · 5 min · gabled and lovely

The Motlawa embankment

0.7 km / 0.4 mi · 15 min · flat, riverside

The Royal Way runs from the Golden Gate down Long Street to the Long Market and the river - the processional heart of the old city, all flat and walkable

By the Ship, or Into the City - Two Sides of the Day



By the Ship

Westerplatte, on Foot

- The Monument to the Defenders of Westerplatte
- The battlefield ruins and the open-air memorial grounds
- The Wisloujskie Fortress, the old brick harbour fort nearby
- All within a walk of the ship - and all free to visit



Into the City

The Old Town, a Shuttle Away

- The Long Market and Neptune's Fountain, the golden heart
- St Mary's Church and the amber lane of Mariacka (mar-YAT-ska)
- The Crane and the gabled Motlawa waterfront
- The European Solidarity Centre, at the historic shipyard

Gdansk on a Budget



Westerplatte

The monument, the ruins and the memorial grounds - free, and right by the ship



The Long Market

Wandering the Royal Way and Neptune's Fountain, the golden heart, costs nothing



St Mary's Church

The vast brick church is by donation - only the tower climb carries a small fee



Mariacka Street

Window-shop the amber lanes, gabled and lovely, and buy only if truly tempted



The Motlawa Embankment

The gables, the Crane and the river craft make the finest free view in town



The Solidarity Square

The outdoor monument and square at the shipyard are free - only the museum charges

For the Cultured



European Solidarity Centre

The powerful museum at the shipyard, telling how Solidarity broke communism's grip



Museum of the Second World War

A vast, striking modern museum on the conflict, with Poland's story at its heart



St Mary's Church

The largest brick church in the world, with a great astronomical clock and tower



National Maritime Museum

The medieval Crane and the steamship Soldek on the Motława - a natural for a seafarer



Artus Court

The merchants' great hall on the Long Market, all Renaissance splendour and a vast stove



Malbork Castle

The largest brick castle on earth (MALbork), a UNESCO site, an hour off - the great excursion

If You Do One Thing

Walk the Golden Long Market

Take the shuttle in and walk the Royal Way - the Golden Gate down Long Street to the Long Market and Neptune's Fountain, with St Mary's above and a detour into the amber-lit lane of Mariacka. This lovingly-rebuilt golden heart is Gdansk at its most beautiful



Short of time? Westerplatte is on your doorstep; Malbork Castle, an hour off, is the great excursion

One Drink, and One Dish



If You Have One Drink

Goldwasser

The golden liqueur of Gdansk (GOLD-vass-er), herbal and sweet, with real flakes of gold leaf drifting in the glass - first made in the city in 1598. Production moved to Germany after the war, but it remains the city's signature, sold across the old town



If You Eat One Thing

Pierogi

The famous Polish dumplings (pih-ROH-gee), boiled or fried, filled with anything from cheese and potato to meat or forest mushrooms. For something of the coast, try fresh Baltic fish, or a warming bowl of zurek (ZHOO-rek), the sour rye soup

With Fair Winds

Gdansk in a Slide



Walk the golden Long Market - the loveliest heart in the Baltic



Stand at Westerplatte - where the Second World War began



Raise a glass of Goldwasser - gold leaf and all



All Aboard 1700 - Sail 1739 allow for the shuttle back - then on to Klaipeda



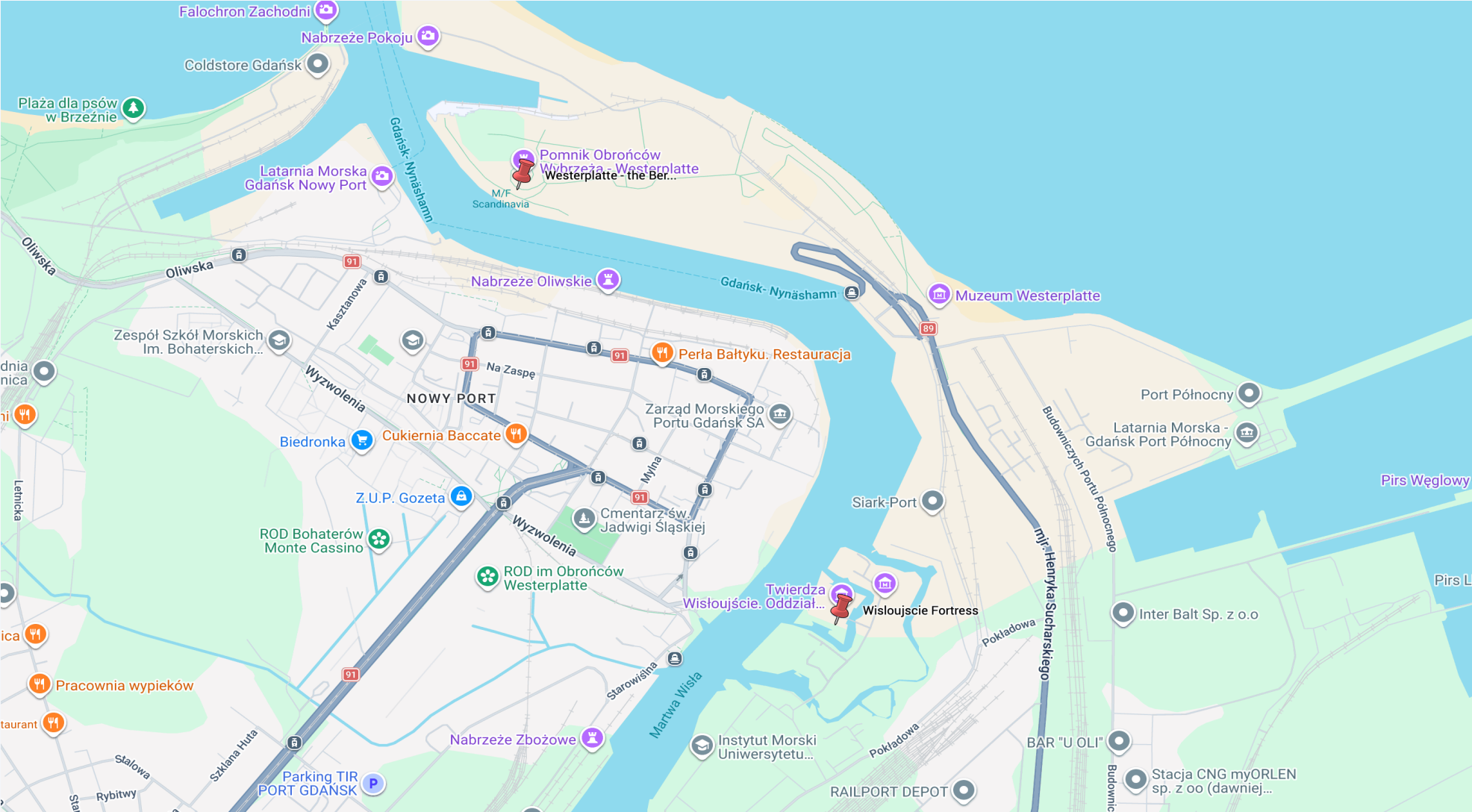
Gdansk in Motion



Insert a short Gdansk film here

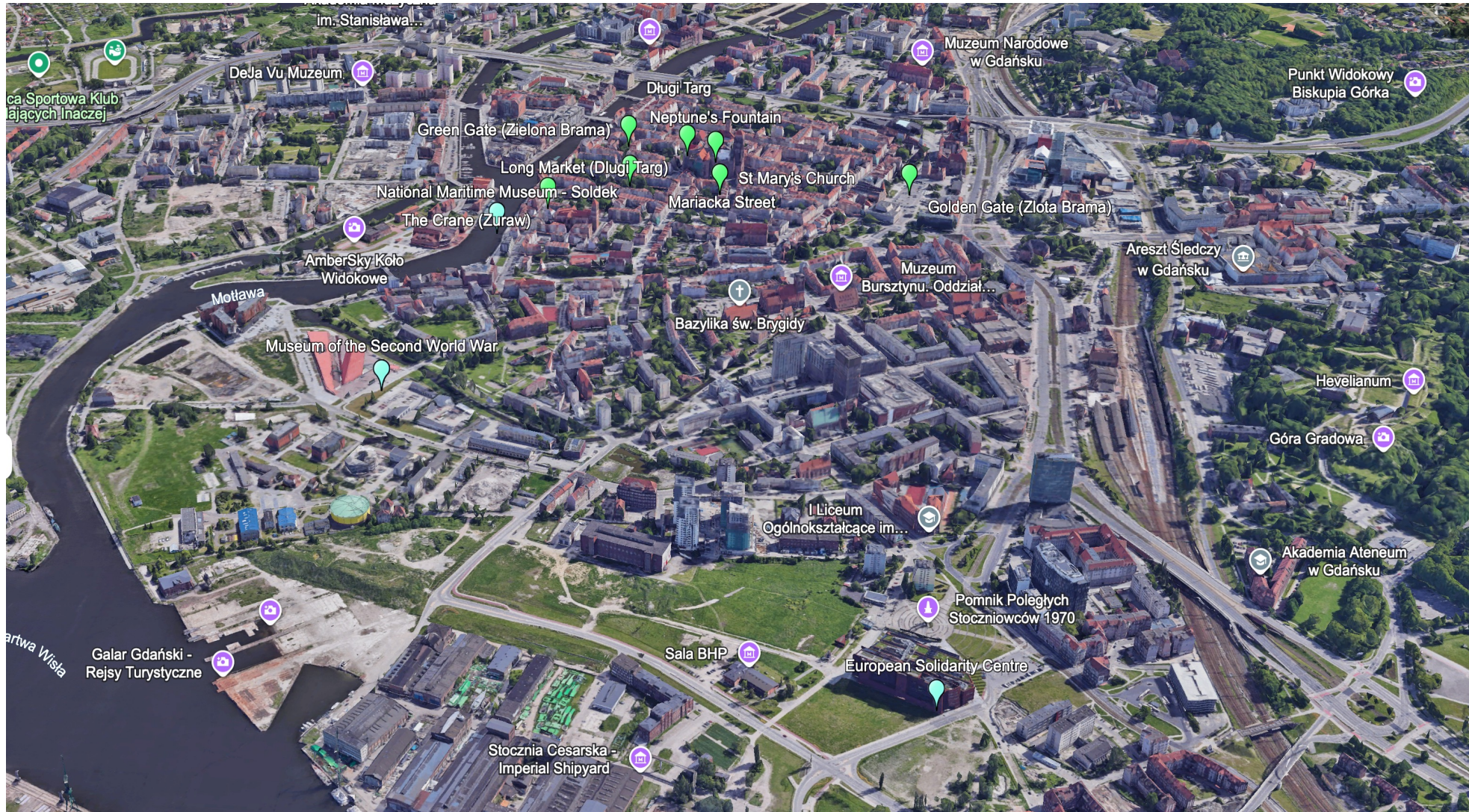
Drop in a clip of the Long Market, the Motlawa or Westerplatte, then set it to play full-screen

The Lie of the Land - Gdansk Port



[illegible]

The Lie of the Land - Gdansk City



Prefer It Organised?

Explore with a Ship's Excursion

With the Old Town a shuttle away and a short day in port, a guided tour takes the strain. The favourites run to the Old Town and the Solidarity story; to Westerplatte and the Museum of the Second World War; to the mighty Malbork Castle, an hour south; or to elegant Sopot and the Tricity coast - and a galleon cruise up the Motlawa is a charming touch



Book at the Shore Excursions Desk

Apps Worth a Download

A few apps to smooth and enrich your day ashore - grab them on the ship's wi-fi before you step off



Google Maps

Directions for the Old Town - save the area to use it offline while ashore



Bolt

The ride-hailing app used across Poland - handy for the run to and from the port



Google Translate

Polish is a tricky tongue - the camera and phrase tools are a real help

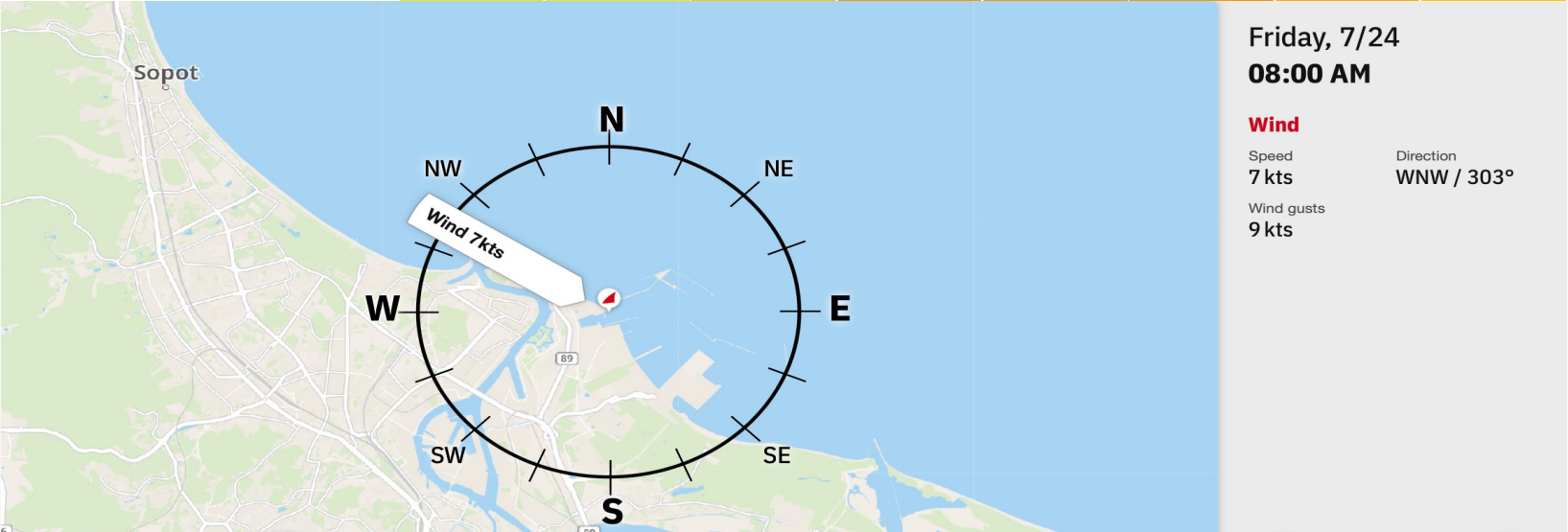


Your Cruise App

The all-aboard time in your pocket - vital with a shuttle ride back to the ship

Forecasted Weather

Local time	02 AM	05 AM	08 AM	11 AM	02 PM	05 PM	08 PM	11 PM
Wind direction	↖	↗	↗	↙	↗	↙	↗	↖
Wind speed (kts)	9	8	7	2	3	5	2	5
Wind gusts (max kts)	11	11	9	4	6	8	5	6
Cloud cover	☾	☁	☁	☁☀	☀☁	☁☀	☁	☁
Precipitation type						💧	💧	
Precipitation (in/3h)						0.02	0.02	
Air temperature (°F)	58	56	60	66	67	67	64	60





Voyager Stories

www.voyagerstories.com