

Super - Barsa Dobsha

Siggy and Heather

In Gdansk, Poland

20th May 2009



Last Views of Malbork



The Pearl of the Baltic

The city of Gdansk was a real surprise. We parked at the camping grounds and rode our bikes some 7kms into town. It was worth the ride. We were a little concerned that we would see another "Poznan" but we needn't have worried. This place is not called the "Pearl of the Baltic" for nothing!! Gdansk (Danzig when it was part of Germany) is over 1000 years old and has a long and tortuous history. There are monuments everywhere. WWII started here. It's the birthplace of "Solidarity" - where Lech Walesa, a lowly electrician, got so sick of the communists that he lead a Polish-wide uprising that reverberated throughout the eastern block of countries. But for Heather the magic words were "amber capital of the world".

Gdansk's architecture is reminiscent of Flanders - an inviting place for any Nowak who cares to stroll around at leisure. And so we did. For almost five hours!!



Heather checking out the amber goodies on offer in the old city square. She always makes time to have a good look.



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Remarkable Reconstruction

The city was flattened during the war but the majority of the buildings in the old city square and the surrounding old port area have been rebuilt as they looked in earlier days. The place is full of life (heaps of school groups). The history of this place is amazing. The Postal Workers Monument, for example, pays homage to 50 postal workers who fought to protect the post office when the war started and lasted 14 hours against crack German troops. The 35 that survived were marched out the next day and shot - their bodies were only found in 1991. The rule is "don't mess with the Poles - especially the posties." Unbelievable. There are 101 stories to tell about this amazing city.



Every building was a work of art - and the umbrellas out on the sidewalks were not out of proportion or of garish colors either.





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We were able to bike around the city and its backstreets and see things that the normal tourists would never go to. The view to the port area, for example, from deserted Wheat Granary Island made our day complete. There was not a soul around when we took these pictures from the ruins.

The distant view of the old Medieval Crane was remarkable. The Crane is a Gdansk landmark. It is over 900 years old and could lift 4 ton masts and other cargo via two wooden wheels which was powered by men walking inside them.



We were very very impressed by Gdansk, its people and its history.

Tomorrow we travel on to who knows where?

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