

# SOLIDARITY ROUTE



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**The peaceful Solidarity revolution** – our biggest national success – **began in Gdańsk.**

It was the beginning of the fall of communism, not only in Poland but in all of Europe.

We are delighted to invite you for a walk along the route through SOLIDARITY, places and ideas.



# **KARTA TURYSTY TOURIST CARD**



**TOURIST CARD**  
**YOUR WAY THROUGH GDANSK**

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# START



photo: Edansk Tourism Organisation

# GDANSK GLOWNY RAILWAY STATION

Podwale Grodzkie 1 street

The railway station's building was erected in 1900, in a style called the Gdansk version of the Dutch renaissance. It was the scene of the December rebellion events – workers' strikes that spread across the Polish seaside between 14 and 22 December 1970. The workers were protesting against food price rises. On 15 December 1970, a column of strikers walked in front of the Gdansk Główny Railway Station. On that day Kazimierz Stojęcki – a shipyard worker – died under the caterpillar tracks of an armoured personnel carrier. **The militia troops and army used firearms to shoot at the workers. 41 people died during the December rebellion: 18 of them in Gdynia, 16 in Szczecin, 6 in Gdansk and 1 in Elbląg.** The experience that the workers gained, and the memory of those killed in December 1970, paid off in August 1980. "December was grey and gloomy, while August was cheerful and joyous", recalls Jerzy Czarnecki, one of the shipyard workers.



Walk through the tunnel to cross the street, turn left and continue towards pl. Solidarnosci. After about 10 minutes, you will reach the old gate to the shipyard, the European Solidarity Centre and the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970.





# 1



photo: Zenon Mirola / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

# GDANSK SHIPYARD

## Solidarnosci Square



In Communist Poland, Lenin's Gdansk Shipyard was the largest manufacturer of ships in the country. It dates back to the 19th century. Before it opened, Jan Klawiter's shipyard was located there, but the Cesarska Shipyard and Schichau Shipyard gave rise to the current one. After WWI, an international company was formed here that included capital from Poland (20%) and Gdansk (20%) but also from Great Britain and France (30% each), and the shipyard was named The International Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Limited. During WWII, the shipyard was fulfilling orders for Kriegsmarine, the navy of the Third Reich. After the war, the two plants, the old Gdansk Shipyard (formerly Cesarska Shipyard) and Schichau Shipyard, were combined to create one state-owned enterprise - Gdansk Shipyard. In the 70s and 80s, in its glory days, it had around 17 thousand employees and covered an area of approximately 70 hectares. Today, the area of Gdansk Shipyard takes up an important space in the memory of Poles and Europeans, who saw the workers' strikes in the 70s and 80s and the birth of the Independent Self-governing Labour Union "Solidarity". The workers' strikes and the formation of Solidarity are one of the most important events in the modern history of Poland and the whole world because they contributed to the fall of the communist empire and the recuperation of full freedom in many countries.

The main entrance to Gdansk Shipyard leads to the **HISTORICAL SHIPYARD GATE 2**. Today, you can go through without a problem but just several years ago, guards checked documents, and unwelcome visitors were not let in the facility. On 16 December 1970, this place was the scene of drama. The army opened fire on the protesting workers in front of the gate. Two shipyard workers lost their lives: Jerzy Matelski and Stefan Mosiewicz. 11 people were injured. In the years that fol-

lowed these tragic events, people secretly brought flowers and candles at the gate, which the officers of the Security Service (SB) immediately removed to blot out the memory of the victims that was uncomfortable for the authorities. In 1980, during the August strike that broke out to protect Anna Walentynowicz, a democratic opposition activist who was laid off, Gate 2 became a symbol. People spontaneously decorated the gate with flowers and hung a painting with the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and a photo of Pope John Paul II. It was a meeting place for strikers and their families. Crowds of Gdansk residents came here to support the protesters. On 31 August 1980, Lech Walesa climbed Gate 2 and announced the end of the strike and signing of the Gdansk Agreement. During martial law in Poland, Gate 2 was rammed by a tank. After 1989, it became an important memorial.

On 18 January 2019, the funeral procession of Gdansk Mayor Pawel Adamowicz walked through Gate 2.

**The building, today called the OHS ROOM, was put up at the end of the 19th century and served as torpedo storage.** In the 1960s, it was rearranged to form a training building and later a shipyard's conference room and museum were created here. During the December rebellion, the OHS Room was the scene of the negotiations between the shipyard's Council of Delegates and the management. At the end of the 70s, the building was modernised. In 1980, the OHS Room witnessed the sessions of the International Strike Committee (MKS) that represented the protesting workplaces. Key negotiations with the representatives of national authorities were conducted here. The representatives of the government agreed to the strikers' demands, and on 31 August 1980, they signed a historic agreement. The first independent labour union in the Eastern Bloc was formed then - the Independent Self-governing Labour Union "Solidarity".



photo: Stefan Kraszewski / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

## MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SHIPYARD WORKERS OF 1970

### Solidarnosci Square

It was the first monument in Communist Poland commemorating the victims of the communist regime. The demand for honouring the people killed in December 1970 was first made in 1971 by Henryk Lenarczyk – a shipyard worker and participant of the strikes. The authorities initially agreed to the workers' demand but eventually they backed away. The only thing that the strikers could do was to keep bringing flowers and candles to Gate 2. In August 1980, the International Strike Committee made the construction of the monument one of its demands. After a mass celebrated on 17 August in the same place that the shipyard workers died, a wooden cross was embedded in the ground and a mock-up of the monument was put in the OHS Room. A shipyard engineer, Bogdan Pietruszka, is the author of the monument concept.

The project was accepted by the International Strike Committee and on 1 September 1980, the Social Committee on the Monument was established. After three

months of intense works, on 16 December 1980, in the presence of the representatives of Solidarity, the Catholic Church, the communist authorities and thousands of people from across the country, the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970 was unveiled. The monument is comprised of three 42-metre crosses with anchors nailed to them – the sign of hopes crucified during the workers' strikes in 1959, 1970 and 1976. The monument features bas-reliefs with scenes from the shipyard workers' lives and a quote from "You Who Wronged", a poem by Czeslaw Milosz.

The monument became a memorial to, and symbol of, Poland's route to freedom. The figures that paid a tribute to the victims and everyone who contributed to victory over communism here include Pope John Paul II, U.S. presidents – Ronald Reagan and George Bush senior – and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher. In 2005, the leaders of European countries signed the foundation act for the European Solidarity Centre.



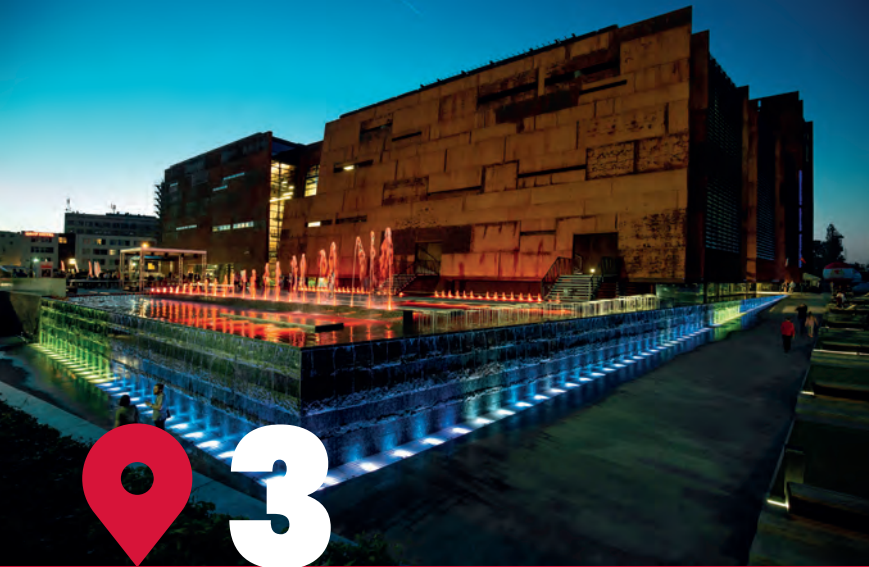


photo: Renata Dąbrowska / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

# EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTRE

## Solidarnosci Square 1

**The European Solidarity Centre (ECS) is a cultural institution that commemorates the peaceful Solidarity revolution, cultivates its memory, supports freedom movements, initiates a debate on the modern world's problems and educates on how to think and act together.** The ECS was created in 2005 thanks to the initiative by Gdansk mayor Pawel Adamowicz. The headquarters on pl. Solidarnosci 1 was opened on 30 and 31 August 2014. From the outside, a building with a unique design that blends in well with the shipyard's architecture can be seen. Inside a winter garden, an auditorium, a library, workshop rooms, an archive, a multimedia library, headquarters of Gdansk non-government organisations, Lech Walesa's office, and Fun Department for children can be found. The observation deck offers a panoramic view of the old Gdansk Shipyard and the Old and Main Town. Over 500 events take place in the ECS every year, including conferences, debates, festivals, children and youth projects, theatre performances and film screenings.

**The permanent exhibition is the heart of the building, and we recommend it.** In a suggestive and modern way, it tells the story of Solidarity – a social movement that, at its peak, had 10 mln members and carried out a peaceful revolution – but also the story of opposition movements and changes that took place in Central and Eastern Europe. Visitors can see different exhibits, including

the boards which the strikers wrote their 21 demands on in August 1980 and hung them on Gate 2. Today, they are considered to be one of the most important documents of the 20th century – they are listed in the Registered Heritage of the UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme. There is the battery-driven truck that served as a mode of transportation, podium and confessional during the strike, the jacket with a bullet hole that belonged to 20-year-old Ludwik Piernicki who was one of the victims of December 1970, and there are also films, stories and installations. Visitors can explore the permanent exhibition by themselves, with an audio tour or a guide.

The historical Gdansk Shipyard building complex – the OHS Room, Gate 2, Solidarnosci Square with the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970, as well as the European Solidarity Centre – were awarded with the European Heritage Label. The ECS was the first institution in Poland to be honoured with the 2016 Council of Europe Museum Prize. It was recognised as a "fascinating example of a cultural institution that promotes freedom and solidarity".

[/ecs.gda.pl](http://ecs.gda.pl)



Turn left onto Lagiewniki street and walk to Stolarska street. You will see a church on your right.



photo: Gdansk Tourism Organisation

## ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH

Profesorska 17 street

The beginnings of the church date back to the 14th century. Its long-term parish priest, the Rev. Henryk Jankowski (1936–2010), had a huge influence on its post-war history. He was named the chaplain of Solidarity after he celebrated a mass for the strikers in August 1980 in Lenin's Gdansk Shipyard, and the parish later became the spiritual centre for Solidarity. In the years that followed, it served as an informal office of Lech Walesa and Solidarity, a charity centre and a centre for anti-censorship culture. After church services that celebrated the motherland, Lech Walesa used to speak during mass meetings.

The church features the world's biggest amber altar whose central part is the figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Protector of the Workers.



Go back to Stolarska street and then walk across Igielnicka street towards Podwale Przedmiejskie, turn right and cross the street to Lawendowa street, which leads to the church walls.



photo: gdansk.pl

# ST. NICOLAS CHURCH

Swietojanska 72 street

One of the oldest churches in Gdansk, build at the end of the 12th century, and the only one to survive WWII intact. The interior maintained its rich Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo furnishings. In the 13th century, the church was taken over by the Dominican Order. During the Communist Era, the church played an important role as an opposition cultural and education centre. Here, father Ludwik Wisniewski (born 1936) led a university chaplaincy that included oppositionists like the founders of the Young Poland Movement, such as Aleksander Hall, Arkadiusz Rybicki, Grzegorz Grzelak, Maciej Grzywaczewski, Dariusz Kobzdej and Marian Terlecki.

The monk also taught self-education classes to young people, mainly students from high schools in Gdansk - High School no. 1 and "Topolowka" (High School no. 3). The church was also home to a creative chaplaincy and hosted exhibitions, theatre performances and meetings with authors, including Zbigniew Herbert, Wislawa Szymborska, the Rev. Jozef Tischner or Ryszard Kapuscinski. Leading opposition activists, including Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Bronislaw Geremek, also met the residents of Gdansk here. **IMPORTANT!** The church is currently closed due to construction.



Go back to Lawendowa street and continue walking down Szklary and Zlotnikow streets, which lead to St. Mary's Church.



photo: Gdansk Tourism Organisation

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Podkramarska 5 street

The Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Gdansk (St. Mary's Church) is the biggest medieval brick church in Europe. One of the important figures that contributed to the creation of the Gdansk patriotic and opposition movement was the parish - the Rev. Jozef Zator-Przytocki (1912-1978). After WWII, he was arrested for being a member of the Home Army, put under a brutal investigation and sentenced for 15 years in prison. After leaving prison, he returned to Gdansk. Despite persecutions by the national authorities in relation to the criticism against the Polish People's Republic, he did not stop his pastoral and patriotic activity. He was the one to initiate the masses to celebrate the country on national holidays that were not recognised by the authorities - 3 May and 11 November.

People were praying in front of Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn for three months, for the release of the activists arrested after participating in the patriotic demonstration of 3 May 1980. In the 80s, the parish house was a secret meeting place for activists of Solidarity, which was declared illegal after the introduction of martial law.

Honoured residents of Gdansk were buried here for centuries, including Maciej Plazynski - Gdansk governor, Marshal of the Sejm and Deputy Marshal of the Senate, who died in the plane crash near Smolensk, as well as Pawel Adamowicz - Gdansk mayor who was murdered.



Walk down Swietego Ducha street to Targ Drzewny and then turn right.





photo: gdansk.pl

# DARIUSZ KOBZDEJ

## ROCK MONUMENT

### Kobzdeja Square

The rock featuring Zbigniew Herbert's poem "The Envoy of Mr. Cogito" commemorates Dariusz Kobzdej (1954–1995), an opposition activist in the Polish People's Republic. Even during his years at the Medical University of Gdansk, he became a member of the Movement for Defense of Human and Civic Rights. In 1978 and 1979, at Gate 2 in Gdansk Shipyard, despite the authorities' objection, he and his colleagues publicly paid tribute to the people murdered in December 1970. He was one of the leaders of Young Poland. On 3 May 1980, after a patriotic demonstration, he was beaten and arrested by the Security Service and then – together with Tadeusz Szczudlowski – sentenced for three months in prison. In defence of the prisoners, printers produced around 100,000 leaflets.

It was one of the biggest opposition actions at the Seaside that helped the whole Tricity learn about the imprisoned oppositionists. They were released after three months. At the party that was held on 9 August in their honour, in the apartment of opposition activists Ewa and Piotr Dyk, the date and manner in which the August strike was supposed to start in Gdansk Shipyard was secretly agreed.

Dariusz Kobzdej participated in the August strike in Gdansk Shipyard. He then led the regional and later also the national Committee for the Defence of Prisoners of Conscience. He was in hiding during the martial law period. After 1989, he got involved in social and humanitarian activity. He died from pneumonia.



The monument is located at the heart of Targ Drzewny, in front of the square.



photo: Janusz Balanda Rydzewski / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

# KING JOHN III SOBIESKI MONUMENT

Targ Drzewny

The monument by Tadeusz Baracz that commemorates the victory of King John III Sobieski over the Turks in the Battle of Vienna (1683), was funded by Lviv residents in 1989. Five years after WWII, it was returned to Poland from Lviv, which belonged to the USSR back then. It was brought to Gdansk, with which John III Sobieski developed a strong relationship – he owned many starosta estates in Pomerania. His son was born in Gdansk and supported the construction of the King's Chapel. Similarly to Lviv residents, the monument became a symbol of freedom for the people of Gdansk.

In the 70s and 80s, it witnessed patriotic demonstrations that began in St. Mary's Church. Today, it is a must-see place on the map of the Independence Parade that takes place on 11 November. The events that commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of 3 May.



Cross Waly Jagiellonskie street and walk down Hucisko street to reach Targ Rakowy.





photo: gdansk.pl

## MONUMENT TO ANTONI BROWARCZYK AND THE VICTIMS OF MARTIAL LAW

### Targ Rakowy

The monument, which takes the form of a bas-relief, was designed by Giennadij Jerszow and unveiled in 2016. It commemorates Antoni Browarczyk (1961–1981) and other victims of martial law in Gdansk. Antoni Browarczyk was a fan of Lechia Gdansk, attended the meetings held by the Dominican Order and worked in electromechanical plant. After August 1980, he joined Solidarity. He distributed leaflets, put up posters and took part in demonstrations.

On 17 December 1981, violent street fights broke out in the centre of Gdansk. After 4 p.m., the officers who guarded the Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party in Gdansk (a big white building; now headquarters of the prosecutor's office on ul. Waly Jagiellonskie 36) used firearms to shoot at the protesters. 20-year-old An-

toni Browarczyk was fatally shot and was one of the first and youngest victims of the martial law. A poem written by his sister Grazyna was inscribed on his grave at Lastowice Cemetery: "Here lies our Polish man, a son, and the painful truth is that he fell on the street of Gdansk, shot by a fellow Polish man."



→ 10 | 11

Let's go to Wrzeszcz district. Take tram no. 2, 6 or 9 from Brama Wyzynna. The 10th stop on the route does not require you to interrupt your journey. Get off at Miszewskiego street and go up Grunwaldzka avenue until you reach a square.





photo: gdansk.pl

## OPERA BAŁTYCKA TRAM STOP

Zwyciestwa 15 avenue

Here, on 15 August 1980, Henryka Krzywonos (born in 1953), a tram driver, said to the passengers: "This tram is not going any further!". The strike of the Public Transport corporation, called the "nerve of the Tricity" that sympathised with the protesters in Gdansk Shipyard had started in the morning. On 16 August, after Lech Walesa announced that the protest ended, Henryka Krzywonos, together with Alina Pienkowska, Ewa Ossowska and Anna Walentynowicz, was stopping the workers that were walking out of the facility.

The strike was saved - Lech Walesa announced that the protest in cooperation with other plants would continue. The International Strike Committee was appointed and Henia - the tram driver - joined it.

It enacted the 21 demands referring to society in general, including the demand for free labour unions and the right to strike. Henryka Krzywonos was one of the signatories of the Gdansk Agreement.







photo: gdansk.pl

# ANNA WALNTYNOWICZ MONUMENT

## Anna Walentynowicz's Square

**The monument to the democratic opposition activist in the Polish People's Republic, designed by Stanislaw Milewski, was unveiled in 2015.** Anna Walentynowicz (1929–2010) was a welder and later a crane operator in Lenin's Gdansk Shipyard. She was an activist in the Free Seaside Labour Unions. On 7 August 1980, she was notified that she had been laid off, which was an obvious harassment because she was supposed to retire in just five months. The August strike in Lenin's Gdansk Shipyard broke out in her defence. Anna Walentynowicz joined the management of the International Strike Committee.

When the fate of the strike was at stake on 16 August, she saved it, together with other women, by stopping the shipyard workers that were leaving the facility. After August 1980, she criticised Lech Walesa and was removed from the union's management. She was kept under the surveillance of the Security Service, arrested many times, and detained during the martial law peri-

od. In 1991, she started working in Gdansk Shipyard because she had one year left to retire. It turned out that ZUS (social insurance institution) had lost some of her documents. After one year, she said: "I am leaving. This time for good and for the first time of my own free will." **She died on 10 April 2010 in the government plane crash near Smolensk. On the day of the unveiling of Anna Walentynowicz's monument, Gdansk mayor Pawel Adamowicz referred to her as the "crane operator who changed the world".**



*Continue walking up Grunwaldzka avenue, turn into Romana Dmowskiego street. Nearby, on Sienkiewicza 10 street, there is a board that commemorates the resident of this tenement house - Arkadiusz Rybicki (1953–2010) - a co-founder of the Young Poland movement.*



photo: gdansk.pl

## THE FIRST HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTER-COMPANY FOUNDING COMMITTEE

Romana Dmowskiego 13 street  
(formerly Juliana Marchlewskiego street)

This tenement house was home to the first headquarters of the Inter-company Founding Committee NSZZ "Solidarity". On 1 September 1980, after the signing of the Gdansk Agreement, the presidium of the Inter-company Founding Committee was transformed into the presidium of the Inter-company Founding Committee (MKZ). The premises were granted to the activists by Gdansk governor Jerzy Kolodziejewski, before the strike in Gdansk Shipyard ended.

On 1 September 1980, the apartment on Marchewskiego street was filled with the strike organisers, co-workers, newcomers from different parts of Poland and a line of people formed outside the building. The

first meeting took place on 3 September. It was agreed that the union organisations, that were forming across the country, would be focused as part of the regional structure. Soon, it turned out that the place was too small to handle the crowds of people and cases. The union members had to move...



Go back to Grunwaldzka avenue and turn right. You will soon reach number 103.





photo: Leszek Biernacki / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

## HEADQUARTERS OF NSZZ "SOLIDARITY"

Grunwaldzka 103 avenue

The headquarters of NSZZ "Solidarity" were moved to the former Morski Hotel, which no longer exists. The ground floor of the building was home to the shipyard's club "Ster" where, on 17 September 1980, a meeting of all activists from across the country took place. Over 200 people from 30 cities debated on the way the unions should be organised. They decided to form one labour union.

The institution that was coordinating the activity of the union's regional and company structures was the National Liaison Commission (KKP).

The name was coined by Karol Modzelewski. As he was passing through Pruszcz Gdanski during the August strike, he saw a banner "MKZ - solidarity" in one of the production halls. On 13 December 1981, the union's headquarters was taken

over by the troops of the Motorised Reserves of the Citizens' Militia (ZOMO). The doors were broken down with axes and crowbars, equipment was destroyed, and documents were thrown away. Such sad pictures marked the end of Solidarity's second headquarters. The union was declared illegal.



Let's move on to the Oliwa district. The easiest way to get there is an SKM train from Gdansk-Wrzeszcz that we can reach by turning onto Klonowa street from Grunwaldzka avenue. Get off at Gdansk Przymorze-Uniwersytet. Hala Oliwia is located at Grunwaldzka avenue, opposite the station (you can see it from the SKM platform).





photo: Leonard Szmaglik / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

## NATIONAL NSZZ "SOLIDARITY" DELEGATES CONGRESS

Hala Olivia, Grunwaldzka 470 avenue

The sports and entertainment arena was opened in 1972. In September and October 1981, it was rented by the authorities of NSZZ "Solidarity" that were hosting the sessions of the first National NSZZ "Solidarity" Delegates Congress there. It was a huge project in terms of organisation. 898 delegates arrived from across the country. The guests were accommodated in hotels and student dormitories in Gdansk. The arena, where the sessions took place, also hosted a big press centre with phone booths, teleprinters, industrial television, interpreter booths and polygraph equipment.

A newspaper, *Glos Wolny* [Free Voice], came out during the sessions. It was also published in English (Congress Post). 18 union delegations arrived from the Western countries; 720 guests were invited by Lech Walesa. 275 foreign journalists received accreditation, including ones from the Soviet Union and China. The congress was the scene of a genuine debate, a substitute for a free and democratic Poland. During the congress, in democratic elections, the union chose its leader – Lech Walesa. Over 70 documents were adopt-

ed, together with a national reform programme titled "Self-governing Republic". The demands included: a universal right to work, clear division of the national authorities' competencies, democratisation of public life, creation of employees' self-governments in workplaces, and local governments. Since the delegates understood the power of the ideas of solidarity, they adopted the content of the appeal to activists from other Eastern bloc countries. In the "Message to the People of Work from Eastern Europe" they called for a collaborative, joint fight for their rights.



*It is a 25-minute walk during which we go back to Kolobrzaska street, turn left to Slupska street; we reach Hynka street and then turn left onto Pilotow street (apartment block no. 17 is located near Startowa street). We can also take the SKM train that will take us to Gdansk-Zaspa and we will arrive at the destination after a 10-minute walk down Franciszka Hynka street.*



photo: Stefan Kraszewski / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

## WALESA FAMILY APARTMENT IN ZASPA

ul. Pilotów 17 D

In 1968, Lech Walesa rented a room in a tenement house at Kartuska 28 street and later in a tenement house on Malczewskiego street and a detached house at Beethovena 30d street, and in a hotel for employees on Klonowicza street. In 1972, Lech Walesa, as an employee of Lenin's Gdansk Shipyard, was assigned a 36-square-metre, two-bedroom apartment in a housing complex in Stogi district, at Wrzosey 26 c/5 street. He lived there until 1980 with his wife Danuta and five children. After the August strike ended, by the decision of the governor on 4 September, the Walesa family received a new apartment at Pilotow 17d street that combined two apartments. The move was made possible thanks to... journalists from the West who profiled the leader of the strike who was living with a big family in two rooms. The apartment in Zaspas became the centre of the leader's meetings with the activists, reporters, politicians and ordinary people. During the martial law period, crowds of marchers gathered in front of the apartment block to support the interned union's leader. On 1 May 1982, a huge crowd of Lech Walesa's supporters marched the streets and ended with a demonstration in front of the apartment block in Zaspas. After Solidarity was declared illegal in the martial law period, an informal office of the organisation was also located here. Under complete control of the Security Services,

monitored 24/7, it was also the meeting place of activists but also famous figures from Poland and abroad. Elton John was one of the guests who visited the apartment on Pilotow street. When, in 1983, residents of Gdansk learned that Lech Walesa received the Nobel Peace Prize, crowds turned up again under the balcony of his apartment in Zaspas. In the 80s, the Walesa family apartment in Zaspas was considered the most important place for the Solidarity opposition. Many years after the family moved out, we can still find memorabilia of the most famous resident of this neighbourhood. On one of the tower blocks on at Dywizjonu 303 no. 33a street, an artist, Rafal Roskowinski, commemorated Walesa together with John Paul II, and at Pilotow 17f street, we can find Solidarity's leader's face outlined in pixels by artist Piotr Szwabe. These works are part of the Monumental Painting Collection that features nearly 80 projects, large-format murals on the walls of the highest apartment blocks and entrances to the blocks (<http://muralegdanskzaspas.pl/>).



Go back to Hynka street, continue walking up the street until you reach the crossing with Rzeczyspospolitej avenue. The park is located on the other side of the avenue.



photo: Janusz Uklejewski / ESC Archive / Collection of European Solidarity Centre

# JOHN PAUL II PARK

An area between Jana Pawla II avenue  
and Rzeczypospolitej avenue

**The park that covers an area of over 25 ha commemorates the mass for the people of work that Pope John Paul II celebrated for millions of people on 12 June 1987. The pope's visit was an important event for Solidarity that, impaired by the martial law period, could manifest its presence again and, in fact, was the foundation of the political transformation.** The pope's altar that was built in Zaspka, which went down in the history of such projects, was designed by Marian Kolodziej, a theatre stage designer. The structure, which was several dozen metres high, was an allegory of the Church's ship. It also evoked associations with the shipyard and the protesting workers. The pope referred to the work ethic which was so important to Solidarity. "Carry each other's burden - this concise sentence formulated by the Apostle is an inspiration for interpersonal and social solidarity. Solidarity means both, and so the burden is carried together, within a community.

So never one against the other. Some against the others. And the 'burden' should never be carried by one man. Without the help of others."

**Today, the visit from John Paul II that was so important for Gdansk, Poland and Europe, resonates in the park that was named after him and the statue of the pope nearby.**

end 

*Our journey has come to an end. Thank you and remember to practise interpersonal solidarity!*

# Trail of Freedom and Lech Walesa

While following the Solidarity Trail around Gdansk, be on the lookout for the oval plaques installed on some local buildings – they mark places linked to various Solidarity-related activities of **President Lech Walesa**. The first plaque was unveiled in September 2018 as part of the **30th anniversary celebration of Lech Walesa receiving the Nobel Peace Prize**.

The plaques enable everyone to discover the sites of various important events, such as the **First National Congress of Delegates of Solidarity, which took place in Hala Olivia**. Other important locations include the house of **Ewa and Piotr Dyk** at 10 Sienkiewicza Street, which is where secret

meetings took place, including the determination of the date for the August Strike, as well as Walesa's house at 17 Pilotow Street, where family life was interwoven with union activities and the meddling of the communist secret service.

**The Trail of Freedom and Lech Walesa** was inspired by the book *Gdansk według Lecha Walesy (Lech Walesa on Gdansk)* by Piotr Adamowicz, Andrzej Drzycimski and Adam Kinaszewski, published by the Gdansk Municipal Office in 2008. The enamelled oval plaques were designed by Dr Anita Wasik from the Gdansk Academy of Fine Arts.

*photo: Grzegorz Mehring /gdansk.pl*





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