

Walk No. 1

# AHOY, ADVENTURE!

Length of the route: 2.7 km



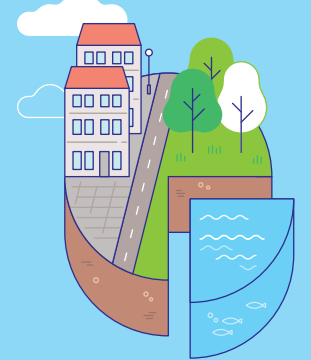
If you chose this walk, it means you love the sea and ships. Excellent! So let's start on Grodzka Island. The beach is named the Municipal Summer Zone and allows you to not only build sandcastles and rest on deckchairs but also offers a unique view of the city. Do you feel as if you were at the seaside? Exactly! Officially, the island is surrounded by sea water. Yet, do you know where the sea begins and ends? If not, you'll find out later during the tour!



START

A1

**..... FUN FACT .....**  
If Szczecin were a cake divided into four pieces, one of them would disappear under the water. Over a quarter of Szczecin's area is water. And this is due to Lake Dąbie, the fourth largest lake in Poland, which is located within the city limits.

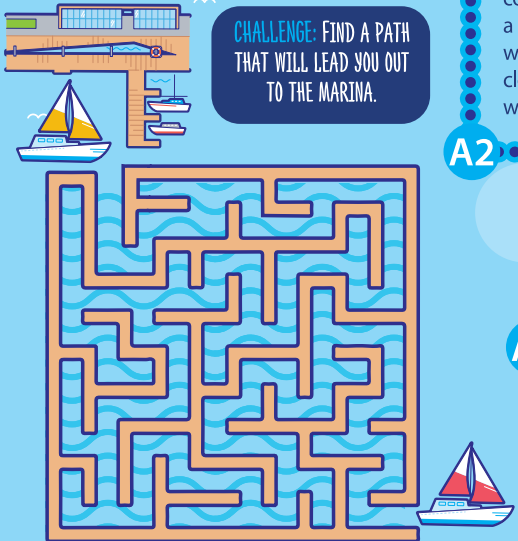


**CHALLENGE: FIND THE VISIT SZCZECIN FRAME ON THE ISLAND AND TAKE A SOUVENIR PHOTO WITH THE PANORAMA OF SZCZECIN IN THE BACKGROUND.**

When you cross over the bridge, you pass through the marina, a water parking lot for yachts and boats. Look the other way - can you see a huge concrete skyscraper? This is a granary - a large grain warehouse right by the water. A similar building is located a bit closer. This is the Szczecin Cold Store, which is a gigantic refrigerator.

**CHALLENGE: FIND A PATH THAT WILL LEAD YOU OUT TO THE MARINA.**

A2



Go to the SZCZECIN sign and take a photo. Can you see the historic red brick building across the street? This is the Stara Rzeźnia Euroregion Cultural Centre. Inside, you can see the Mermaid of Happiness figurine and visit the marked Haken Line, the compositional axis of the Chrobry Embankment, known before the Second World War as Haken's Terrace. To the rear of the building is Gryfitów Square, which is associated with the deep-sea fishing company "Gryf". This company started the production of one of the delicacies of Szczecin - paprikash.

Since you have already arrived in Szczecin, be sure to try this delicatessen prepared freshly by local restaurateurs.

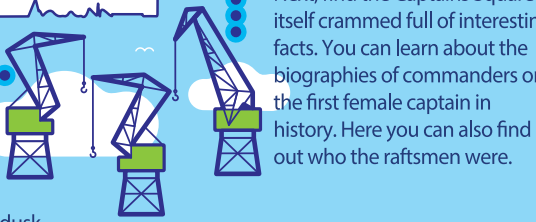
Next, find the Captains Square itself crammed full of interesting facts. You can learn about the biographies of commanders or the first female captain in history. Here you can also find out who the raftsmen were.

LEGEND

During one of the voyages to Africa, fishermen encountered and tasted the chop-chop dish, consisting of fish and rice with spices. It was then that they came up with the idea to use pieces of cut blocks to freeze African fish. The flesh was mixed with rice, tomatoes and hot Pima pepper and they named this canned fish salad Szczecin Paprikash. Since this early beginning, it has been exported to 32 countries.

A4

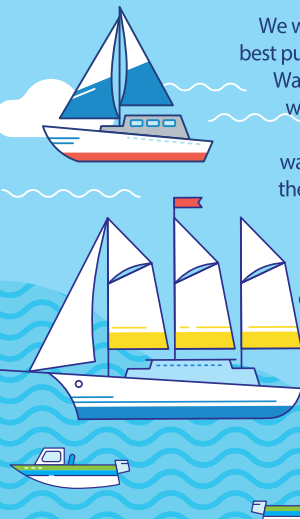
Thanks to their colourful illumination, the historic Cranesaurus attract attention from afar as they begin their "light dance" at dusk. Such port cranes were used to load and unload cargo from the ships. In the port, you will still find many working cranes in all manner of structural shapes. It is best to look for them from the water because the quays are the natural habitat of these creatures.



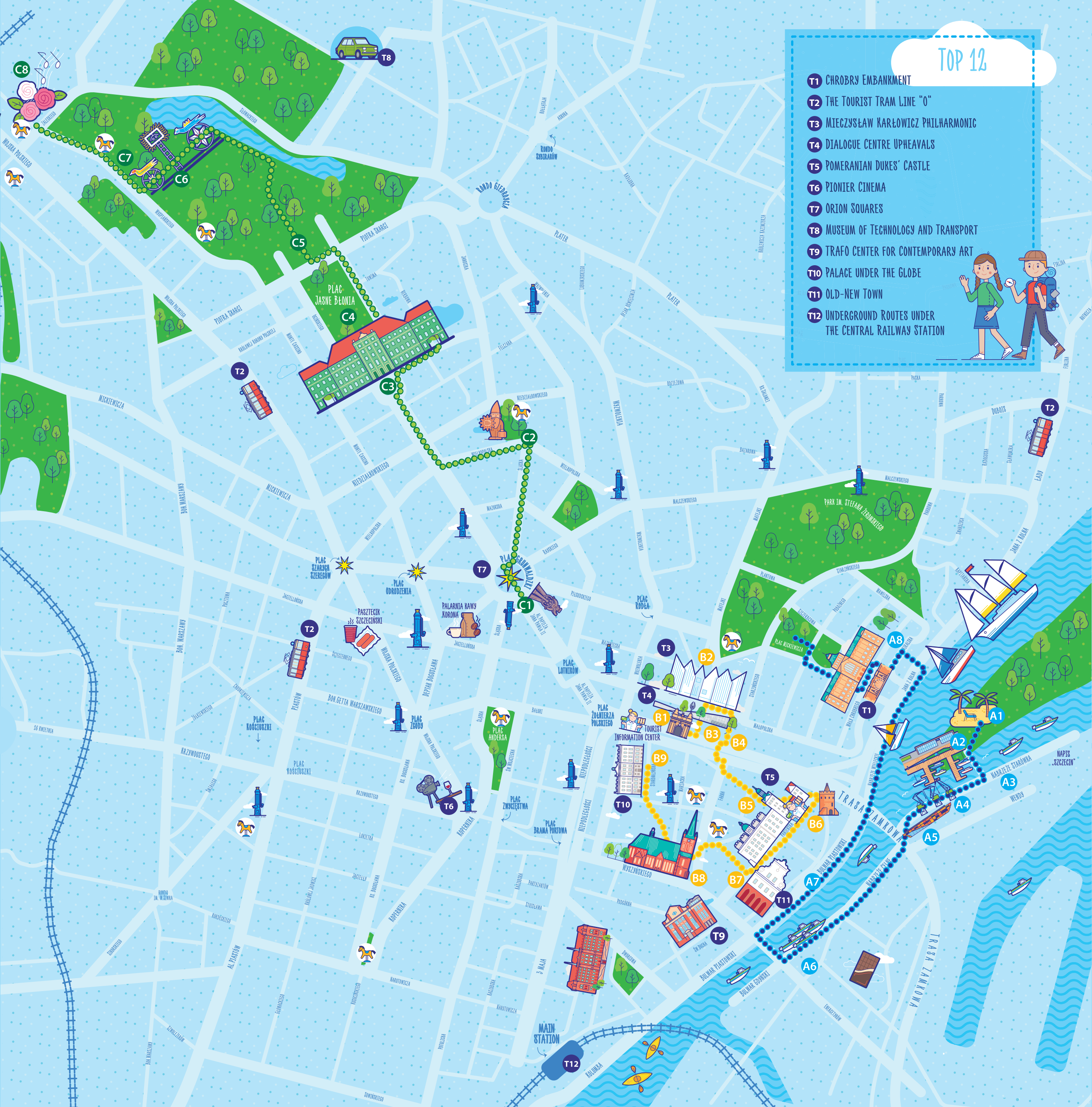
Right next to the Cranesaurus, there is a building resembling the hull of a ship. This is a Marine Science Center full of experiments and multimedia attractions. Inside you will find a planetarium and on the top - a terrace with a beautiful view of the city.

A5

We walk along the city boulevards on the riverbank, voted as the best public space in Poland in 2018. Then, passing under the Castle Way, we cross the border - this is where the sea ends! Although we have as much as 65 km to the open sea, taken in a straight line, a border on the water marks the end of the inland sea waters. The river we are now walking along is called the Oder - the second longest river in Poland, which has many branches - here is the Western Oder. Furthermore there are more than 20 of its various arms, streams and rivers in Szczecin. On the other side of the river, the Old Town poses for photos, dominated by a hill on which stands the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle and the high tower of the cathedral.



Visible from a distance, the white Maciejewicz mast on the quay comes from the former steamboat, named after the most famous Captain amongst all the Captains, the first commander of the sailing ship Dar Pomorza and the organizer of the maritime school in Szczecin - Konstanty Maciejewicz.



TOP 12

- T1 CHROBRZY EMBANKMENT
- T2 THE TOURIST TRAM LINE "O"
- T3 MIECZYSLAW KARLOWICZ PHILHARMONIC
- T4 DIALOGUE CENTRE UPHEAVALS
- T5 POMERANIAN DUKES' CASTLE
- T6 PIONEER CINEMA
- T7 ORION SQUARES
- T8 MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT
- T9 TRAFIC CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
- T10 PALACE UNDER THE GLOBE
- T11 OLD-NEW TOWN
- T12 UNDERGROUND ROUTES UNDER THE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION



## WELCOME TO SZCZECIN!



There is a fantastic adventure ahead of you, full of legends, secrets and puzzles. With our guide, you will discover that sightseeing is great fun, packed with unique discoveries! We have highlighted some of the greatest attractions within the City of the Griffin and places where you can have a good time, as you probably already know from school, with the whole family.

**..... FUN FACT .....**  
Szczecin is called the Griffin's Castle. This is because the city's coat of arms features the head of a legendary winged creature with a golden crown on its head. You will find many of them in the city, among other things, on historic pumps, where griffins are found nesting next to images of dragons or fish.

To make exploring Szczecin easier, we have prepared three routes for you that take you to the amazing and fascinating worlds of sailors, knights, and explorers. You can choose one of the routes or take them all. It is worth a try!

AHOY, ADVENTURE!

ONCE UPON A TIME AT THE CASTLE

ON THE ROUTE OF DISCOVERERS

In addition, we have prepared a surprise for the most dedicated of travellers! After solving all the puzzles, visit the Tourist Information Center in Kwiatowa Avenue to receive the Szczecin Explorer Diploma.

Ready? Let's go!

SZCZECIN EXPLORER DIPLOMA



On the edge of Zeromskiego Park, you will find a playground for children. We have marked playgrounds on the map with the symbol.

END



Behind the building of the National Museum, there is a monument to the poet Adam Mickiewicz located in the square. Behind it, you can find Stefana Zeromskiego Park. An orthodox church next to the park is dedicated to, probably, everyone's favourite saint - Nicholas. Did you know that he is also the patron saint of sailors and merchants? This is why temples in port cities have long been named after him.

**CHALLENGE: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE VOYAGESHIP WHOSE CAPITAL IS SZCZECIN?**

**..... FUN FACT .....**  
This museum houses the most extensive collection of replicas of ancient statues in Europe. There is also an exhibition about Africa where you can see an African village.

The tower of the Provincial Office in Szczecin has a merman holding a banner with an eagle on its top. With his other hand, he holds an anchor by his leg. The top of the next tower resembles a ship's crew's nest. In the office hall, you can see a scale 1/100 miniature model of the building. Also you can arrange a guided tour here.

**CHALLENGE: FIND A CARVED OWL AND ROOSTER ON THE BUILDING OF THE MARITIME ACADEMY**

### LEGEND MARE DAMBIENSIS

Around 1949/50, an interesting legend became known about the fourth largest lake in Poland - Lake Dąbie, called Mare Dambiensis. It was first included in the chronicles of Szczecin by the branch of the Academic Maritime Union. The academies sailing in those years could enter neither the Szczecin Bay nor the fairway of the Oder River due to the state border being right next door and this prohibited their entry because all of them were controlled by the Border Protection Forces. Hence, the lake basin naturally became the whole world for many sailors of the region. Dreaming of freedom and long journeys, they imagined references to different places on the globe. These were marked on a specially prepared map. Now the mosaic based on that map is the ornament of the Academic Maritime Union. Among others, we will find the Land of Umbriga, the Sargasso Sea with the Bermuda Triangle, Bird Island referring to the ornithological activity of Paul Robien, Medusosan, Cape of Four Skeletons filled with pirates and the Cape of the White Elephant and other mysterious and exotic names. Such a world of adventures awaited the adventurous on the Dąbskie Sea. However, amongst them all was someone truly unique - a cat named Umbriga, who became somewhat legendary in the history of Szczecin sailing, for this was no ordinary cat; it was a sailor cat. Eventually, it left the deck on the island of Dębina to never return. Despite many searches, it was never found. Many are still convinced that his descendants live on this island to this day. Shanties are sung about Umbriga, fairy tales are told, a yacht is also named after it, and an award for young sailors is presented. Over the following years, new names have appeared on the map of Mare Dambiensis: Crooked Serpent Canal, Beer Trench, Forester's Lodge, Jaek's Channel, Square, Founding Fathers' Trail to Lubczyzna and others. The legend continues, and Umbriga, the cat, even has its monument in Zeglarzy Alley.



**A6** Now cross the Długi Bridge to Piastowski Boulevard. On the other bank, we turn right into Zeglarzy Alley, where it is worth seeing the Sea Chronicle of Szczecin. But before we go there, let's take a few steps the other way. Do you see an unusual sculpture showing barrels full of herring? Once upon a time, Szczecin was famous for having a great deal of such barrels on the boulevards and streets. Of course, with actual fish. To this day, herring prepared in many ways is the speciality of several Szczecin restaurants.



The Customs Chamber's building, which resembles a castle, was built at the beginning of the 20th century on the site of a previous building. Among the sculptures on the facade, above the corner windows of the first floor, you will find representations of the four corners of the world, symbolizing the global reach of shipping: Indian, Asian, African and European.

**..... FUN FACT .....**  
If you can detect the smell of chocolate, this is thanks to the chocolate factory "Gryf" located on the island. The first such factory was called Odeco, and today the Odeco manufacturing refers to this name. The factory produces pralines from the chocolate it uses.

**CHALLENGE: WALK ALONG THE PIASTOWSKI BOULEVARD TOWARDS CHROBRZY EMBANKMENT AND FIND THERE THE MOSAIC OF MARE DAMBIENSIS. THERE IS A CAT ON THE MOSAIC MAP. CAN YOU SEE IT? PERHAPS YOU WILL ALSO FIND A WHALE, JELLYFISH, MERMAIDS, AND SZCZECIN'S COAT OF ARMS WITH A GRIFFIN?**

Going further along the quay, you will pass other sailor's monuments and basic navigational instruments: chronometer, quadrant, compass and astrolabe. Perhaps you will find time for a trip on a white fleet ship? It's definitely worth doing!



In the case that she is not on a training cruise, you might catch sight of the NAVIGATOR XXI moored on the quay. Students of the maritime school learn to sail on this ship. If you like sailing, adventure and love ships, maybe you will come back to Szczecin to study at this University?

From a distance, your eyes may be attracted to the majestic Chrobry Embankment. There are two impressive columns from the waterside symbolizing coastal lighthouses; these are twin sisters - the northern and southern lighthouses belonging to the god of all the seas - Poseidon.

It was here that large passenger ships moored, and it was here that the city welcomed newcomers. This visual showcase of Szczecin is decorated with a fountain that shimmers with colours like a rainbow thanks to special lighting in the evenings. Look up! The coats of arms of Pomeranian ports are carved on the wall of the main terrace.

**A8**

**CHALLENGE: COUNT THE COATS OF ARMS ON THE MAIN TERRACE AND NAME THE CITIES. HOW MANY COATS OF ARMS HAVE THE IMAGE OF A GRIFFIN ON THEM? ENTER A NUMBER HERE:**



**CHALLENGE: SHOW THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE ODER FLOWS TO THE BALTIC SEA.**

In summer, the most beautiful sailing ships from all over the world often come to Szczecin. Usually, these come to visit during the Sea Days festival that is organized to welcome summer. Every few years, however, Szczecin becomes the finish line of a great water race called the Tall Ships Race. During the final of the Tall Ships Races regatta, you can observe dozens of vessels, including the largest sailing ships in the world from Chrobry Embankment. You even get the chance to admire them both from onshore and onboard and feel like a real captain of the seas!



Take a look at the two buildings of the Maritime Academy. The first of them has interesting devices on the roof. These are two sets of radar that allows you to learn how to navigate a real ship. Future ship officers study here. There is also a real planetarium in the Academy, which can be visited by making an appointment.

An interesting figure stands in the middle of the main terrace. It's half horse, half human, a centaur wrestling with Hercules.



Above, at the entrance to the National Museum, you will see four carved medallions. One shows the pyramidal and the Sphinx from Egyptian culture. The second is the Parthenon symbolizing Greek and Roman art, the third is the Gothic cathedral in Cologne, and the last depicts St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. It is a symbolic representation of the ideas of the founders of the museum. They wanted to collect here examples of culture created by man from time immemorial. The museum tower offers a vast panorama, it is well worth climbing the stairs to its top.



