



non-exhaustive register of  
**POLISH UNUSUAL TRADITIONS**  
**(AND PLACES)**

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## WTF?

I consult google to see what is recommended for tourists in Poland.

google: polish specific activities

| poland unusual traditions | poland bucket list

The lists are interesting-places-oriented ie *where to go*

(Auschwitz seems to be #1, sad)

activities résumé:

**Easter:** Egg painting (nobody does now);

Wet Monday Śmi[n]gus-Dyngus (for experts :-);

The Drowning of Marzanna (for children)

**Wedding:** Poprawiny (Party after party/for adults);

**Religious-based/Religious:** All Saints' Day (Zaduszki);

Three Kings Day (Trzech Króli);

Corpus Christi (Boże Ciało);

Christmas (indoors/family)

**Non-religious:** CanoeTrip (modern / for everyone);

Mushroom picking (traditional / for everyone)

Amber picking (baltic shore / experts)

Impress family and friends in your home country:-)

*(Impressive to family and friends ITFF)*



## **Religious-based/Religious strange activities**

**Easter:**

Wet Monday Śmi[n]gus-Dyngus (disappearing)

**Corpus Christi:**

9th Thursday after Easter – Corpus Christi (movable/public holiday)

A traditional procession leaves the church and continues on the streets with banners, holy pictures and in the central part of the procession a priest holding The Holy Host covered by a canopy.

The street traffic may be blocked.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDKFEsxDMoI> (PC w GDA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWhj063ft3g> (Feretron dance)

Feretron = banner (saint picture or procession float, see also google: feretron dance)

**Three Kings Day (Trzech Króli):**

A traditional procession (Three Kings Day

Parade/Jan 6th). The parade honours the three wise men (cf photo) who visited Jesus at his birth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZzfsk1tlYc>



## Secular strange activities

**CanoeTrip (modern):** Easy – lots of rental service available.

Prices starts from 40 PLN /half a day

**Amber collecting:** at the East part of Polish Baltic seaside  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U18j0Gfua2Q>)

**Mushroom picking:** a few hours walk in a forest

Problems: Forest ownership (Polish forests are public so no-problem), Eating habits, Fear of mushrooms in general (*mycophobia* or *fungophobia*), fear of being poisoned (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mushroom\\_poisoning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mushroom_poisoning))

# fungi poisoning in Poland: 7 (2015), 45 (2016), 26 (2017);  
(cf [http://wwwold.pzh.gov.pl/oldpage/epimeld/index\\_p.html](http://wwwold.pzh.gov.pl/oldpage/epimeld/index_p.html))



<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/sep/16/wild-mushroom-picking>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mushroom\\_hunting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mushroom_hunting)

<https://www.polandunraveled.com/12-things-to-do-in-poland-before-you-leave/>

<https://www.quora.com/Why-do-mushrooms-scare-me>

## In case mushroom picking is not known in your country

Basically mushroom picking is a few hours walk in a forest. The heat of the season is September/October when millions of Poles head for forests to collect mushrooms.

Cooking party is often organized on return from mushroom picking trip as it is well known that mushrooms are best when prepared immediately...

Mushrooms can be processed in various ways: fried, cooked and marinated with vinegar.

You can buy mushroom in vinegar in every grocery shop in Poland BTW.

Dumplings with mushroom (or mushroom mixed with cabbage) are equally common.

Mushroom soup is a popular soup in Poland too...



A mushroom-collecting trip/Cooking party (with an expert on recognizing mushrooms) can be organized in case of sufficient interest—be prepared to get very early (for success one have to be first in the forest :–)

## In case you don't know what Amber is

Amber is fossilized tree resin, used in jewelry. The Baltic region is home to the largest known deposit of amber variant called **Baltic amber**. More than 90% of the world's amber comes from Kaliningrad/Russia (East of Gdańsk.)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic\\_amber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_amber)

For industry-scale amber extraction digging is used. Collecting manually on the beach is a hobby/small scale extraction

<https://meduza.io/en/galleries/2015/05/22/russia-s-baltic-gold>

Large amount of Amber is processed in Poland particularly in Gdańsk. Mariacka street in Gdańsk is a sort of Antwerp's Pelikaanstraat, but Amber is sold here not diamonds...

You can buy Amber at the every airport in Poland probably (duty free shops), but why not visit Mariacka street? Much more choice and lower prices (small jewelery pieces are as cheap as 10–15 EUR)

An amber-collecting trip can be organized in case of sufficient interest—be prepared to get very early (for success one have to be first on the beach :-)



## Pomorze bucket list (short)

Less famous yet still interesting places worth visiting

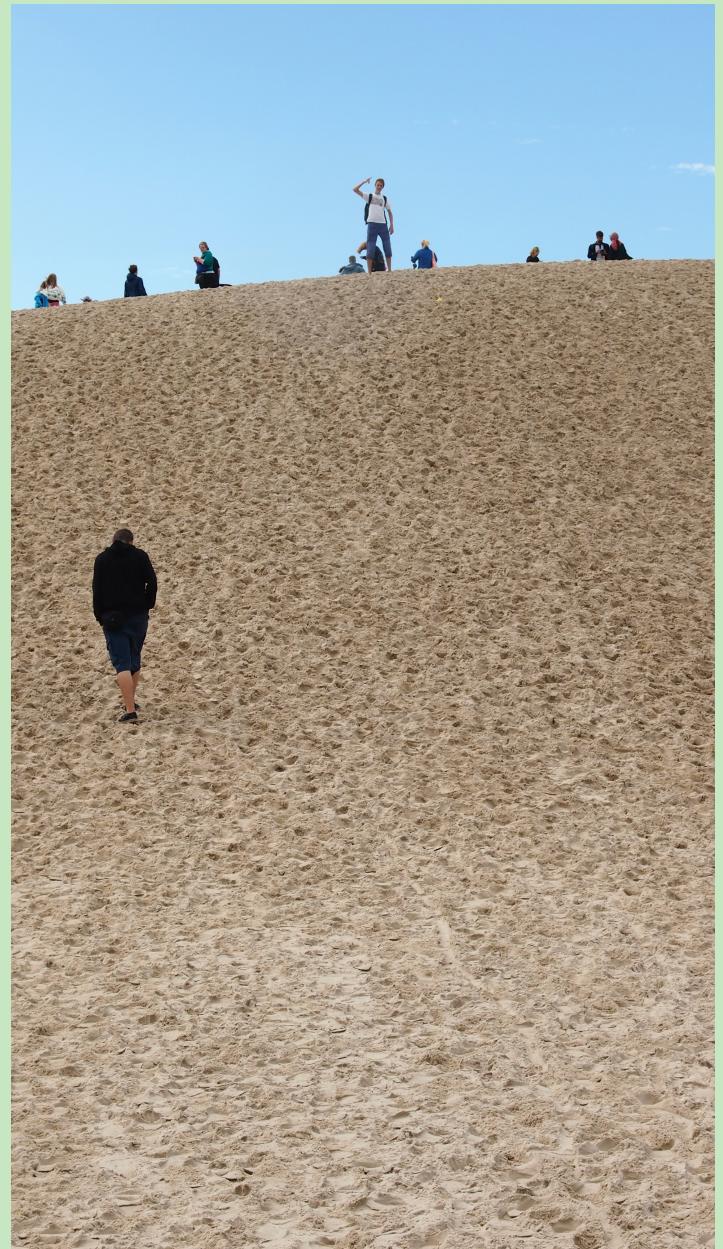
**Dunes:** – easy way is to go to Łeba (disadvantage: lot of other tourists will be there); or (better/non-easy way) go to Smołdzino / Słowiński National Park / Kluki (ethnographic park is a must to visit).

Fine dunes/sand beaches are also at Sobieszewo island near Gdańsk or Kopalino (ca 20 kms east of Łeba.)

**Hel peninsula** (rent a bike, go by cruise ship and return by bike).

**Malbork** (castle is obvious target, but you can also rent a canoe and go from here to Biała Góra to see impressive lock complex which separates Vistula and Nogat (21 km/return lift is included in the price of canoe rent.))

**Canoe tour** around Gdańsk (google: kajaki Gdańsk) 3–4 hours (or more if you can) for 10 EUR per couple. Consult the weather forecast before

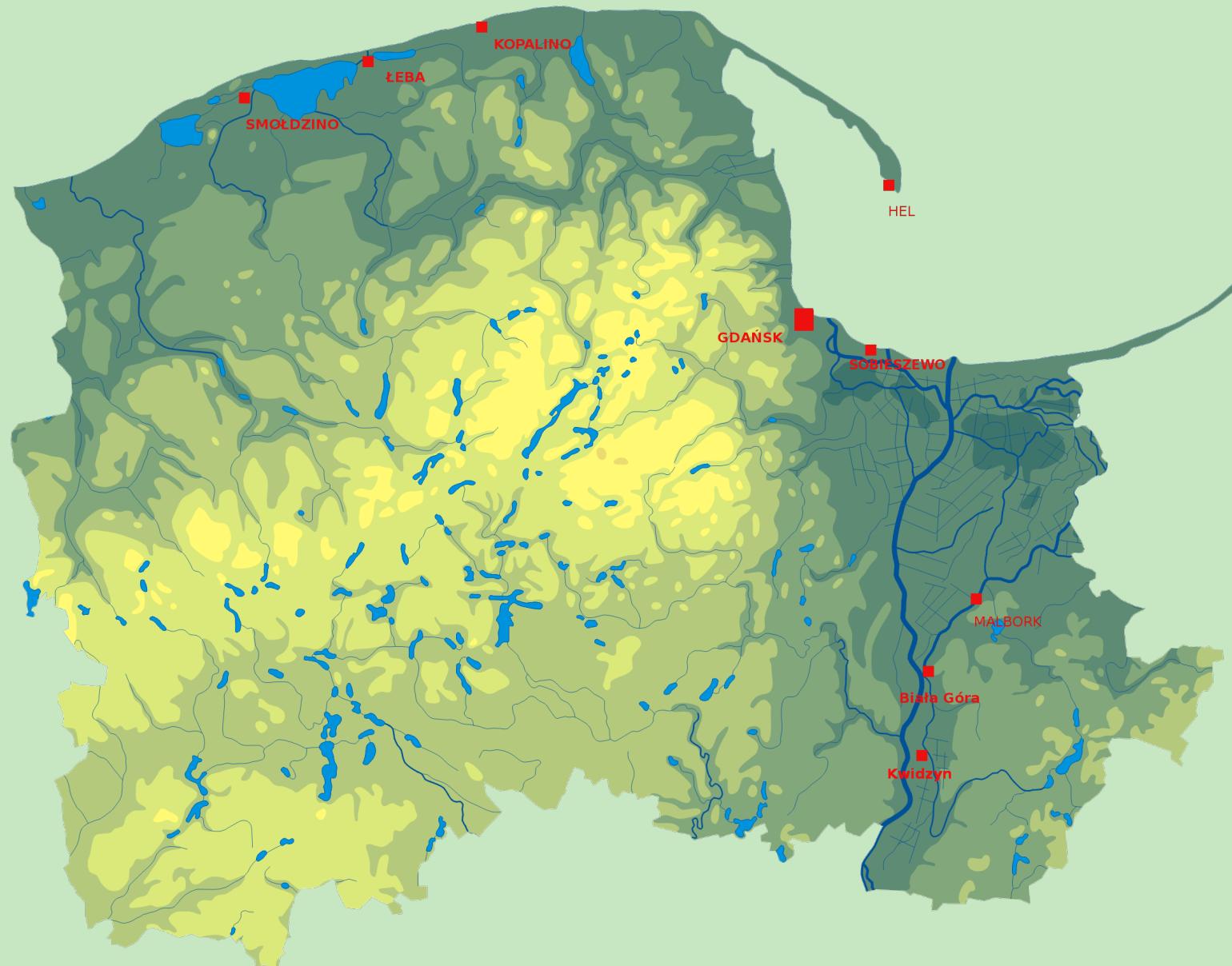


## More stuff to read

<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g274723-Activities-Poland.html>

<https://culture.pl/en/article/7-confusing-polish-customs>

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/poland/articles/7-traditions-only-poles-can-understand/>



The End/Thank you