



## **The Gdańsk Christmas Fair is officially open. A Winter Pageant and the first performance of the Bugle Call**

**A procession of beautifully festive winter characters, the premiere of the Bugle Call and a speech by Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk Piotr Grzelak to conclude the Opening Ceremony: the Gdańsk Christmas Fair lit up the Coal Market (Targ Węglowy) on Saturday afternoon. It was a splendid invitation to Celebrate in Gdańsk with the exhibitors and visitors alike.**

The beautifully festive winter parade started off in Tkacka St. towards Długa St. to make its way through the Golden Gate to the Coal Market and on to the stage. The fairy-tale pageant put the Fair's visitors in a magical mood. Stilt walkers and actors from the Gdańsk Archipelago of Culture (GAK) Theatre acted out genre scenes, engaging passers-by in the Opening Ceremony parade. The Christmas-themed characters were accompanied by children from two artistic and creative teams of the Youth Centre (Pałac Młodzieży) and children from the Gdańsk Archipelago of Culture Song and Dance Ensemble (ZPiT GAK). All this took place with the assistance from the Gdańsk Garrison, the Taraban band and an instrumental ensemble.

When the pageant reached the stage, which is located next to the Wybrzeże Theatre this year—in a way that does not obscure the Theatre's beautiful, renovated façade—the Opening Ceremony began. The popular favourites, Mr and Mrs Nutcracker, were already waiting there. Children's music bands, Superband and Smile, created a fairy-tale atmosphere, and so did Dorenutki and the GAK dance ensemble during the ceremony. The public was introduced to each part of the event by Silver Lady Winter and Praline Snow Maiden.

One of the main parts of the Opening Ceremony was the presentation of the Gdańsk Christmas Fair Bugle Call. This year, a competition was announced for a piece to become the leitmotif of the pre-holiday event. It was co-organised by the Gdańsk Academy of Music. Without knowing the composers of the pieces beforehand, the judging panel was delighted with the work of Magdalena Garbecka. The Gdańsk Academy of Music graduate won first prize, PLN 4,000, and the bugle call she composed will be played on every day of the Fair. It premiered on Saturday afternoon, performed by students of the Gdańsk Academy of Music.

"The idea for the Christmas Fair Bugle Call was initiated by the Rector of the Gdańsk Academy of Music, Ryszard Minkiewicz. There was a big discussion about it. St Dominic's Fair has its own bugle call which adds a note every year so why not try it at the Christmas Fair? Now I can say that the piece surprised me in a good way. A big thank you to Magdalena and the Academy," says Andrzej Bojanowski, President of the Management Board, MTG SA Gdańsk International Fair Co.

More than one composition could be submitted to the Christmas Fair Bugle Call competition. As a result, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Szymon Janiszewski, who received PLN 3,000 and PLN 1,500, respectively. A total of 7 composers participated.

The 2023 Gdańsk Christmas Fair was ceremoniously opened by Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk Piotr Grzelak.

“I am glad that, as every year, we meet at the Coal Market during one of Europe’s most beautiful Christmas markets. Last year, many thousands of online votes resulted in the Gdańsk Fair being considered the second most beautiful in Europe. We have 150 exhibitors, including 50 from Gdańsk. However, it is worth adding that we have exhibitors from all over the world. Let’s enjoy ourselves, visit the stalls, smell the beautiful Christmas scents and taste the best delicacies,” said Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk Piotr Grzelak.

A moment after the Deputy Mayor’s speech, the procession of festive winter characters set off to the Coal Market and Bogusławskiego St. to continue celebrating the launch of the Fair together with the visitors.

Zakład Utylizacyjny (Waste Disposal Plant) in Gdańsk was the partner of the 2023 Christmas Fair Opening Ceremony.

You can admire the beautiful festive arrangement of the Fair owing to, among others, the Polish State Forests, the provider of the Christmas trees. This is why the Coal Market has turned green and become Christmas-scented right since Day 1.

### **Get to know the programme of the Gdańsk Christmas Fair**

The Opening Ceremony was the first item on the wide-ranging artistic agenda which fills almost every day of the Fair. **On Tuesdays**, music fans can listen to Christmas concerts, featuring the Slavic Soul Christmas Band, Gospel Carol Singing and Carol Singing with the GUMed Choir. **On Wednesdays**, visitors can grab microphones and sing the most beautiful Polish and international Christmas hits at Christmas Karaoke. **On Thursdays**, there will be surprises to please the eye—the Fire Theatre and parades—as well as the ear: Fairy Tales read with the Wybrzeże Theatre and the Voivodship & Municipal Public Library. **On Fridays**, the organisers invite kids to activities with the Wykrzyknik (Exclamation Mark) Academy of Fun and Education, and older participants to an evening dance with festive DJ sets. **On Saturdays**, there will be a Christmas medley: performances by the Gdańsk Song & Dance Ensemble and the Neptune Song & Dance Ensemble, and the Winter Adventure with Treflik.

As always, the Fair will be visited by Santa Claus and the official mascots of the event, Mr and Mrs Nutcracker, who are just waiting to have snapshots taken with visitors and record Christmas greetings. **Sundays are time** for loved ones. Children and their parents can watch performances and take part in activities organised by the Qfer Theatre, listen to carolling with Carillon and have fun with Caritas, which will promote volunteering and the joy of sharing kindness.

**From 1 December**, together with the E.Wedel confectionery company, we invite you to the opening of the windows of the Advent Calendar, which, as always, will become part of the Advent Gate.

A detailed programme is available at <https://bozonarodzeniowy.pl/en/daily-program/>.

Atmospheric decorations, stalls with unique products and an extensive artistic programme, including creative workshops—all this has been organised by the Polish State Forests Regional Directorate, Gdańsk.

Located near the huge JARMARK (The Fair) sign in the Coal Market, the Gdańsk Tourism Organisation’s cottage, Santa’s Gift Factory, is one of the unique Christmas Fair cottages. Everyone who visits it can buy attractive Gdańsk souvenirs, with Christmas (and other) themes. A delicious surprise is also waiting inside the cottage. There you can buy Flavours of Gdańsk project packages, available in versions for 1, 2 and even 4 people. And that’s not all! The Gdańsk Tourism Organisation has prepared a competition for Gdańsk Resident Card holders. You can win fantastic prizes by scanning QR codes. The task is to hunt

for 10 cubic display towers with the codes and scan them. All the details of the competition are available at [jestemzgdanska.pl](http://jestemzgdanska.pl).

### **Celebrating in Gdańsk!**

The motto of the Christmas Fair has been present on the streets of Gdańsk since Friday. The festive town in the Coal Market, Bogusławskiego and Tkacka Streets, in the Armoury (Zbrojownia) and the Foregate Complex (Zespół Przedbramia) is a place where you can get inspired and find one-of-a-kind gifts, taste various world cuisines and enjoy attractions for children and adults. Simply have a great time with family and friends. Visitors can choose from 170 stalls.

As always, Lucky the Moose will make your time more enjoyable by making you laugh with his dad jokes.

### **Christmas Travel Corner with AmberSky**

New on the 2023 Christmas Fair map is the Christmas Travel Corner with AmberSky. It is a special place with attractions for kids: Santa's Magic Sleigh VR simulator, Gdańsk Carousel, Observation Wheel on Ołowianka Island and, new this season, the Barrels of Fun Spinning Coaster. In the pre-holiday rush, it's good to find the time for moments of joyful relaxation and fun with family and friends. An all-in-one ticket will make it easier for you to use all the attractions.

The price list of the attractions is available at [bozonarodzeniowy.pl](http://bozonarodzeniowy.pl).

### **The Fair Helps Out**

As every year, the Christmas Fair invites you to take part in special and charitable events. These will include the Christmas Closet, which will be used to exchange toys in a toy crossing campaign. The familiar book crossing bookcase will appear in the Armoury as part of a campaign organised in partnership with the Voivodship & Municipal Public Library.

The GPEC Group, together with AmberExpo, will collect funds for the Hospice Foundation. You can buy tickets in the GPEC Group's winter cottage, with the proceeds donated to the Foundation's beneficiaries.

The Dutkiewicz Hospice, Gdańsk, invites you to a unique charity concert, Let's Sing with Santa Claus for the Hospice Foundation, which will feature, among others, artists from Cappella Gedanensis. There will also be a meeting with Santa Claus and Elves in a singsong atmosphere.

The Teddy Bear Gate by the Smyk Kids Store once again features in the Armoury. At the end of the Fair, when buying Christmas Fair Mugs, you will be able to adopt a teddy bear. The funds from the purchase of the mugs will be donated to the Hospice beneficiaries.

The Fair's organisers also joined the Christmas with Ukraine campaign, which is carried out at 30 European markets in support of the Faina.ua Foundation.

During the Fair, owing to the stunning illuminations, the streets of the historic heart of Gdańsk will turn into a festive town. This has been made possible by, among others, Gdańskie Wodociągi (Gdańsk Waterworks), the Strategic Partner of the Christmas Fair and Gdańsk Illuminations.

The GPEC Group is a Supporting Partner of the Gdańsk Christmas Fair and a sponsor of the Gdańsk illuminations.

## **CHRISTMAS FAIR NON-STOP ATTRACTIONS**

- YOUNG GDAŃSKERS' CHRISTMAS TREE
- CHRISTMAS TRAVEL CORNER with AMBERSKY
- Gdańsk Carousel
- SANTA'S SLEIGH Flight Simulator
- BARRELS OF FUN Spinning Coaster
- Observation Wheel

TALKING KATARZYŃKA POST BOX

CHRISTMAS STAGE WITH SANTA'S THRONE

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

ADVENT GATE with TREATS FOR KIDS

GPEC CHRISTMAS MAGIC

LUCKY THE MOOSE

ANGEL MILL

SHRINE GROVE

ENCHANTED FOUNTAIN by E.WEDEL

### **ILLUMINATIONS AT THE FAIR: 20 figures!**

ILLUMINATED JARMARK BOŻONARODZENIOWY (CHRISTMAS FAIR) SIGN

ILLUMINATED ROOF IN BOGUSŁAWSKIEGO St.

ILLUMINATED ROOF & GATE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ARMOURY

FIGURES: CLOCK, CANDELABRA, ARMCHAIR, BAUBLE

THREE ILLUMINATED GATES, ARBOUR, CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN by E.Wedel, WINGS

### **Key information:**

Stalls available to visitors:

Sunday–Thursday 12:00–20:00, Friday–Saturday 12:00-21:00

The Christmas Fair, 24 November–23 December

Targ Węglowy (Coal Market), Bogusławskiego Street, Tkacka Street, Zbrojownia (Armoury), Zespół Przedbramia (Foregate Complex), Gdańsk, Poland

WWW: [bozonarodzeniowy.pl/en/](http://bozonarodzeniowy.pl/en/)

FB: [facebook.com/jarmarkbozonarodzeniowygdansk](https://facebook.com/jarmarkbozonarodzeniowygdansk)

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/jarmarkbozonarodzeniowy/](https://instagram.com/jarmarkbozonarodzeniowy/)

TIK TOK: [jarmarkbozonarodzeniowygdansk](https://tiktok.com/@jarmarkbozonarodzeniowygdansk)

**The Christmas Fair**  
*Celebrating in Gdańsk!*

*They support us!*

**Jarmark Bożonarodzeniowy**  
*Świętujemy w Gdańsku!*

*Są z nami!*

MIASTO GOSPODARZ	PARTNERZY WSPIERAJĄCY	PARTNER STRATEGICZNY JARMARKU BOŻONARODZENIOWEGO I ILLUMINACJI GDAŃSKICH	SPONSOR STRATEGICZNY	SPONSORZY GŁÓWNI
	 SAMORZĄD WOJEWÓDZTWA POMORSKIEGO	 Grupa GPEC	 OKOCIM	 Amber Sky KTO O WIDOKU? 
<b>PARTNER CEREMONII OTWARCIA</b>	<b>PARTNER MERYTORYCZNY</b>	<b>PARTNER TECHNICZNY</b>	<b>PARTNERZY</b>	
 Zakład Utylizacyjny	 pre zero	 Oficjalni Przewoźnicy	 Baltic Hub	
<b>PARTNERZY</b>				
 PIALNE CZEKOŁADY	 S W g l s Coty dla małych!	 PELLOWSKI Pielonki - Ciepłota	 ZROZOWNIA SZTUKI	 wood love
<b>PARTNERZY PROJEKTÓW SPECJALNYCH</b>				
 Fundacja Hospicyjna	 TEATR WYBRZEŻE	<b>PATRONAT MEDIALNY</b>		<b>ORGANIZATOR</b>
		 trojmiasto.pl	 wyborcza.pl	 amberexpo
		 www.gdansk.pl	 VISIT GDANSK	 RADIO BIZNES
			 ieska	