



Baltic Wreck Expedition 2015

6 days wreck diving – seaside towns sightseeing

2 days hotel – introduction to polish culture

This trip is open to non members

Technical group – 12.07.2015 – 20.07.2015

Recreational group - 3.07.2015-12.07.2015 FULL Booked

Cost: 550 £ - 6 full days diving with air fill and full board

60 £ - 2 x transfer equipment to Poland

80 £ - return flight inc. all taxes

50 £ - 2 night in hotel with breakfast

Trip Plan:

12.07 Flight from Luton Airport to Poland –Gdansk; 15.05 –18.15

Boarding to M/Y Safira and pick our dive gear, overnight at Gdansk

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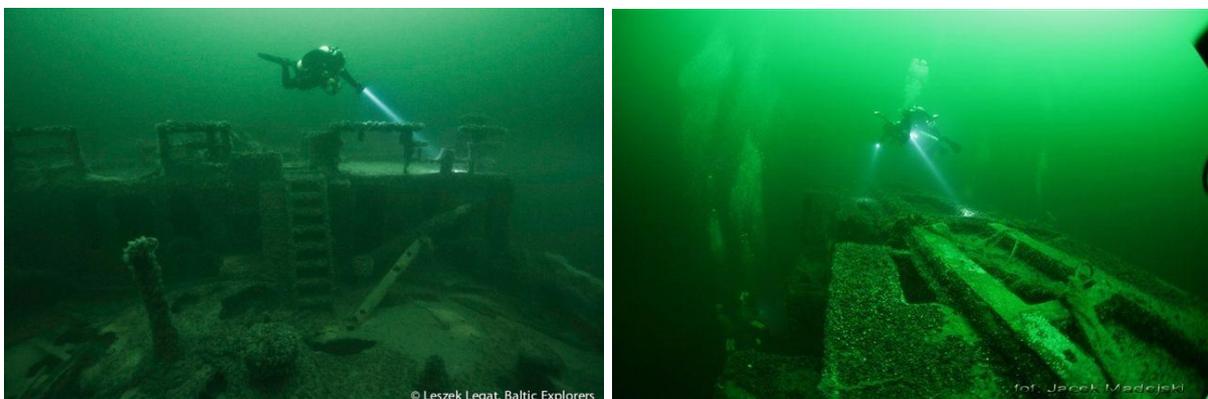
13.07 Check dive by HEL – diving on wreck `TRALOWIEC` 38m & `ABBILA` 42m



14.07 Diving on wreck `FRANKEN` 72m & `BOELCKE` 59m



15.07 Diving on wreck `TERRA` 43m (deck 35m) & `Poglebiarka` 40m



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16.07 Diving on wreck `BREMENHAVEN` 66m & `V315` 55m



17.07 Diving on wreck 2x AIRCRAFT CARRIER `GRAF ZEPPELIN` 60m deck 87m seabed



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18.07 Diving on wreck `AKADEMIK KARPINSKY` 80m (deck 70m) and we will back to Gdansk



19.07 We will mooring next to `Olowianka` Hotel (15 min walk to Old Town) and we will un boarding and check in, rest of day sightseeing Gdansk and evening goodbye party in hotels restaurant.



20.07 Check out, visit Sea Museum and transfer to Gdansk airport and flight to Luton 18.30 -19.50

All depths are maximum (seabed)

All dive plans are subject to weather condition and can be change by captain or can be change on our request ;-)



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July in Poland is very nice weather temperature 25-35C water will be still cold but calm. Under thermocline is cold all year round 4-8C (dry suit are necessary). Baltic has three level of salt water: layer of surface water 0-40m avr.7% salinity (ocean 35%), next level is halocline 40-80m 15-20% salinity and last level is almost as ocean 30% salinity.

When planning weight, you can take max 1-2kg more in relation to the balance in inland waters (fresh).

Visibility

Visibility as the temperature is governed by its own laws. No one is able to clearly answer what visibility will be for example day. Sometimes conditions change very rapidly. In the winter until the beginning of June the visibility is the best; its range reaches up to 20-25m. Due to the colour of the bottom of the greater likelihood of better visibility from the open sea than for example the Gulf of Gdansk. Brighter bottom in a significant increase visibility through a greater amount of ambient light. Darker bottom does not reflect light so that the visibility of these areas appears to be inferior. In the Gulf of Gdansk visibility often does not exceed 15m.

Visibility also depends on the depth of diving, in the Gulf of Gdansk below 30m there is no sunlight for at diving below this depth requires the use of a flashlight diving. Wreck diving below 40m from the sea open often do not require the use of a flashlight.

Due to the changing conditions every diver should be equipped with at least one light source.

I also recommend having a pony bottle and 15 litter cylinder plus GOOD cutting tool.

A museum under the sea

Nowhere else in the world are there as many well preserved wooden wrecks as in the Baltic. So far, we know of about 20 000 remains of ships and smaller boats, but not all the wrecks have been discovered yet. Archaeologists believe there may be more than 100 000 of them! That makes the Baltic an underwater museum. Information about the wrecks found so far is available in the Fornsök database.

Free from shipworms

The reason the wrecks are so well preserved is that shipworms do not like the brackish waters of the Baltic. Shipworms are actually a type of small clam that lays its larvae in wood. In salt water, wrecks can disappear in a short time since the larvae eat the wood. In the Baltic,



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wrecks can look just as they did when they sank, even though several hundred years have passed. Baltic Sea is also less salty and low oxygen level which helps wrecks to stay longer in good condition.

Museum for divers

Only divers can visit and look at the wrecks at the bottom of the Baltic, but the waters of the Baltic are relatively shallow, so recreational divers can reach many of them. If one hundred years have passed since the ship sank, the wreck is counted among permanent ancient remains and thus protected by the Cultural Heritage Act. That also means that unless you have obtained permission to do so, no one can touch, alter or damage it. Many interesting younger wrecks are also fragile, so divers need to be careful.

Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is famous for its wrecks, no matter how experienced or how many diving certificates you have; you will find many interesting sites to visit. There are popular among fresh water divers, lying next to the shore, on shallow waters wrecks like Grozny- anti-submarine vessel (15-20m depth), Solen (15m) Swedish XVII warship or Dolphin (21m) magnetic trawler. Even divers with OWD are able to choose among almost a hundred wrecks lying over 20m, some of them are even accessible from the beach (like Bryza, navy support vessel, on 18 meters, near Hel).

This tragic heritage is now attracting scuba divers from all over the globe. It is no secret that Baltic Sea is considered to be the third best wreck diving site in the World.

The amount of already found and marked on maps wrecks goes in hundreds of thousands, and underwater archaeologists think that it is just a small percentage of what could be found in those mysterious, green waters.

More experienced, but still recreational divers, who can go down to 40 meters and have Wreck Diving certificate in their logbook (many diving centres won't take you to any deeper wrecks, if you don't have adequate certificates!) are allowed to choose more challenging diving sites. Breath taking wrecks like the Trawler (42m), Fu Shan Hai (30m) a Chinese bulk carrier, Steamer (39m) or XVIII century Sail Ship (38m), and hundreds of more just wait for daring divers.

Real adventure waits for technical divers. On 72m, in dark green abyss and complete silence lies Franken, 179m long oil carrier, legend among Baltic divers, famous for astonishing and breathe taking impressions. Even the most experienced divers treat this place with respect and plan carefully their dive.



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Other popular wrecks available for technical divers are: Graf Zeppelin (60m) Kriegsmarine's aircraft carrier, tugboat Abille (47m) or U-346 (54m) and U-Boot (67m).

When wreck diving in Baltic, you should know that Polish naval law does not allow divers to go into the wrecks, you can just watch them from the outside. However, this is not strictly obeyed and many divers are more than willing to take the risk and visit dark and narrow corridors of sunken ships. If you decide to break the law and swim inside a wreck, remember that you need special training and equipment. Diving with ceiling overhead is always dangerous and demanding. Don't get encouraged by small depths, technical wreck diving is a challenge for all experienced, properly equipped and certified technical divers, and it's not an amusement for recreational divers.

Other thing you should be aware of before wreck diving in Baltic Sea are the closed zones. You are not allowed to dive within a radius of 500m from some special wrecks: Goya (75m), Gustloff (47), Steuben (72m). They are considered war tombs and are closed for all divers. Coast guards are very strict in this matter. This three wrecks is one of the biggest war tragedy they took life of about 25 000 people.

FAQ

What about food and price in Poland?

-on the boat we will have full board: breakfast (polish breakfasts are light) lunch and dinner, plus tea and coffee.

-in hotel we will have breakfast which is included, for diner we will go to restaurants (avr. price 50pln =10£) On last evening will be goodbye party with traditional polish food and last day we will eat in old town Gdansk before transfer to airport.

What about deposit?

Deposit 200£ and I will buy a flight as soon as I find good deal and then you will pay me flight fare. Rest must be paid till 12th of May.

What we will do on the land?

On Sunday morning we will moor by our Hotel and we'll move all staff and we'll store dive gear for drying, after that we'll sightseeing Gdansk and evening `Goodbye Party` in polish style. On Monday after check out we'll visit Sea Museum <http://www.en.cmm.pl/the-granaries> and after that dinner in Old Town we will have transfer to airport.



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What will happen with our diving gear?

I will drive van with trolley 2 days before rec trip (on 1st of July) and I will collect equipment from Swindon or from London (on the way) and I will drop back just after I back from Poland (21st of July). Box with gear and box with rebreather 60£. I can arrange to hire twins 2x12, stages 7 & 11 and weight.

What about gases?

EAN to 36% - 2pln per one litre of cylinder capacity.

EAN 50 - 3 pln per one litre of cylinder capacity.

O2- 4pln per one litre of cylinder capacity.

Hel- 0,20pln per litre of gas.

What kind currency is in Poland?

In Poland we are using Polish ZLOTY (means `gold`) average rate is 1 £ = 5 PLN, best option is to withdrawn from ATM but if you wish there will be many places to exchange.

What kind of power socket?

Poland has 220 v powers but with different socket, you will need adapter!

What about transfer?

In Poland I will arrange two buses for transfer and later for sightseeing tour.

What about flight?

We will use cheap flight company: from London Luton with Wiz air 15.05-18.15 (2h05m) and on way back Gdansk to London Luton 18.45-20.00 (2h20m) because this is cheap flight company price for ticket are constantly in change but I will be controlling it and when it will be lowest I will buy for all of us. I expect it to be around 80 £ both ways with hand luggage only. I will need money and all personal details to precede online booking.

What about decompression chamber?

National Centre of Hyperbaric Medicine is in Gdynia (next to Gdansk) and can be reached in 30 minutes by air from farthest place of our trip. International diving insurance is necessary, DAN is recommended; <http://www.daneurope.org/web/guest>

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More about Hotel `Ołowianka`:

Featuring a private marina, the Ołowianka Bed & Breakfast guest accommodation is located on the Ołowianka Island at the Motława River in central Gdańsk. Free Wi-Fi is provided. All rooms at the Ołowianka B&B are elegantly decorated with parquet floors and warm colours. Each comes with a river view, an LCD TV with satellite channels and a modern bathroom. Some feature a view of the Old Town. The elegant restaurant features a summer garden and offers a wide selection of Polish dishes and quality spirits. In the evening, you can taste popular local beers. Ołowianka Bed & Breakfast is situated within only a 10-minute walk from the historic buildings of the Old Town. The city's main railway and bus station, Gdańsk Główny is 1.2 km away. Hotel will be on our private use. We will sleep on special rate in 3 and 4 bed rooms with bathroom and breakfast.

<http://www.olowianka.eu/x.php/1,1080/Hotel.html>

More about Our boat:

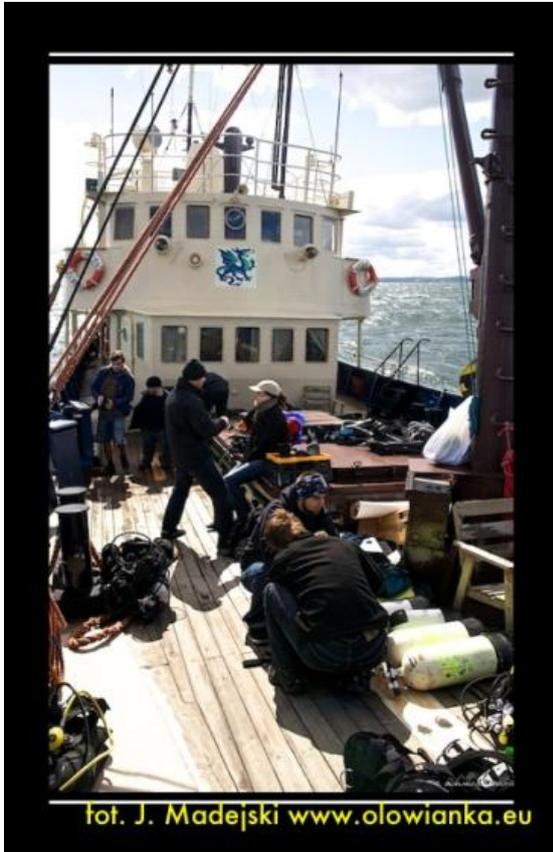
Our home and diving base on time of wreck safari will be M / Y Safira - 33m unit. This boat is biggest one for divers on Polish Baltic Sea (except army) in 1984 unit was rebuilt and adapted to the needs of Underwater Archaeology as a base for divers. You can check how she support last big archaeological project under the auspices of the Central Maritime Museum <http://www.wiatremgnane.pl/>

In 2007 it was decommissioned and was sold to private hands. Boat offers exceptional comfort, good food and an unforgettable family atmosphere. There are comfortable 2 and 4 people's cabins, 2 messy, 2 bathrooms, sun deck and a huge foredeck. In total for 18 divers + crew but 2 space will be for extra 2 people to help us, for us will be 16 pleases. Also has a huge cargo hold where they arranged compressed air supply system, gas storage and a workshop. There divers have air and nitrox 50%. On special request they can prepare the mixture TMX. This is the best unit on the wreck safari what you can see for yourself. Read more about M / Y Safira on their website <http://www.mysafira.pl>



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Website about Baltic wrecks:

<http://divingbaltic.eu/pl/wraki>

<http://www.balticquest.pl/angielski/wreck-diving.html>

<http://www.balticwrecks.com/en/>