

SPECIAL TOUR - NORTH POLAND FORTIFICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2023

The FSG, CDSG and Subterranea Britannica members are being offered a guided 7-day North Poland fortification tour. **The current proposed dates are 9-16 September 2023.** This tour is offered by one of Poland's leading tour organizers in this field, Piotr Kurzawa. Starting and finishing in Berlin, he has designed a 7-day tour covering an impressive range of military sites, including visits to the 1930s Oder-Warthe-Bogen Stellung (Germany's "East Wall"); Imperial Prussian forts; Baltic coast gun batteries; and a Soviet nuclear weapons store.

Proposed itinerary:

After arrival in Berlin on Saturday afternoon, we cross the Oder River into Poland to travel to our hotel for the night near the Oder-Wathe-Bogen Stellung, the heart of the German 'East Wall'. We spend all Sunday visiting some of the water features, bunkers, and enormous underground communication tunnels of this extraordinary defensive complex. On Monday we travel east to the Vistula River near Gdansk, visiting an Imperial Prussian fort of Posen, together with a Third Reich fortified bridge. Tuesday sees us visiting the coast defenses of the Gdansk Bay area, including the naval museum. On Wednesday, we explore the defenses of the adjacent Hel peninsula, which has both German and Polish coast artillery batteries. Heading back west, on Thursday site visits include a Third Reich proving ground and a Soviet nuclear warhead storage complex. On Friday we reach the port city of Swinoujscie, close to the modern-day border with Germany, to see the extensive range of Prussian, German, and Polish coastal batteries. On Saturday morning we conclude our tour program with two Prussian fort/Soviet batteries before travelling back to Berlin airport for our return flights.

Travel:

You would need to book and pay for your own flights to/from Berlin. In-country travel would be by one or two minibuses, depending on group size, which will not exceed 18 participants. Accommodation: We will stay in mid-range hotels offering shared and single occupancy rooms that have attached shower/WC room. Room price includes breakfast.

Tour costs:

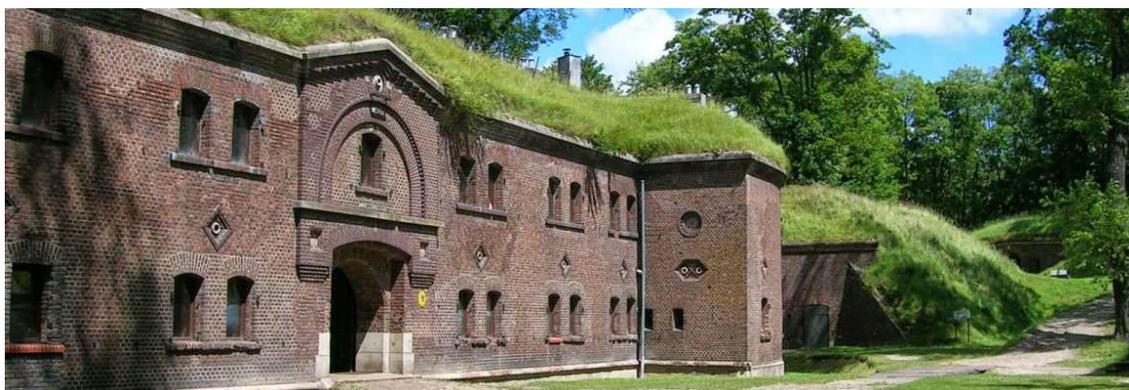
Currently Round-Trip Flight cost from Washington DC to Berlin, Germany and back on Icelandic is US\$603
In-country costs are expected to be roughly as follows (subject to numbers and confirmation):

- Travel/Guide/Entry Fees: US\$ 420 / UK£ 350
- Hotels: US\$ 400 / UK£ 330
- Evening meals and snack lunches would be bought locally, paid for individually.

Next steps: Please let Terry McGovern know if you are interested in going on this tour.

Email : tcmcgovern@att.net Mail : 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-2236 USA

If there is sufficient demand across FSG/CDSG/Sub Brit, Piotr will start detailed planning. Once he has done this, we will confirm the final program details and cost. Piotr will then open the tour for bookings, which you will be able to make directly with him. Places will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.





CDSG/FSG/Sub Brit Special Tour - North Poland Fortifications - Detailed Itinerary

Zero day: 9 Sept. 2023 Saturday

Collect all participants and transfer from BER airport to OWB area (about 170 km distance)

Accommodation 1: Hotel Willa Starosty - <https://willastarosty.pl>

1st day: 10 Sept. 2023 Sunday

- Oder-Warthe-Bogen Stellung:
- Underground areas (ammunition depot and technical area) and unfinished surface works of artillery battery (Panzerbatterie Nr. 2)
- Underground and surface works of Werkgruppe Scharnhorst and battle bunkers (Panzerwerke Nr. 717, 716)
- Rotation bridge (operated by handspike capstan) and water obstacles in north sector of OWB by Werkgruppe Ludendorf

Accommodation 2: (some hotel as 1)

2nd day: 11 Sept. 2023 Monday

Transfer day (about 400 km distance), visiting en route:

- Imperial Prussian Fortress Posen – fort VII with replica of 15 cm Ringkanone on coastal carriage on its original emplacement [or equivalent/substitute site in Thorn or Graudenz]
- Imperial Prussian battery Gartz on Vistula riverside (described in FSG Fort 43)
- Third Reich heavy fortified bridge on Vistula River in Knybawa (must see!)

Accommodation 3: Hotel Knybawa - <https://www.hotelnadwisl.pl/en>

3th day: 12 Sept. 2023 Tuesday

Fortifications in Gdansk Bay area:

- Polish pre-WWII Westerplatte area (fortified ammunition and trade depot + Imperial Prussian fire control bunker)
- Imperial Prussian period coast artillery batteries in Gdansk: Buchtatterie-Disappearing guns 15 cm Krupp, Dorfbatterie-Howitzers 28 cm Krupp

- Open air museum of Polish Navy (some coast and naval guns preserved here) and Błyskawica destroyer (must see!)
- Polish post-WWII war coast battery in Gdynia (B-13 guns on emplacements preserved)

Accommodation 4: Gdansk Bay: Hotel 107 <https://www.hotel107.pl>

4th day: 13 Sept. 2023 Wednesday

Coast artillery batteries in area of Hela Peninsula:

- Polish pre-WWII coast artillery batteries: Greek/Danish 105 mm Schneider, Laskowski-152 mm, Bofors, 120 mm Bofors (from sunken Gryf minelayer), permanent AA-75 mm Schneider
- Polish post-WWII war coast artillery batteries: Cyplowa (rebuild Laskowski)-130 mm B-13, Portowa-100 mm B-24, 152 mm MU-2 guns + preserved rangefinder armoured cupolas (ex-Third Reich)
- German (Third Reich) heaviest 406 mm coast artillery emplacements and fire control tower
- Polish pre-WWII land defense strongpoint Jastarnia heavy bunkers

Accommodation 5 (some hotel as 4)

5th day: 14 Sept. 2023 Thursday

Transfer day (about 450 km distance), visiting en route:

- Third Reich proving ground Rugenwalde
- Soviet Cold War atomic weapon secret base/storage
- Open air exhibition of local military museum in Kołobrzeg (some coast and naval guns and fire control devices)

Accommodation 6: Swinemunde: Hotel Nowe Millenium - <https://nowemillenium.pl>

6th day: 15 Sept. 2023 Friday

Fortifications in the area of Świnoujście 1/2:

- Imperial Prussian battery-150 mm disappearing guns / rebuilt by Soviets as 130 mm battery
- Imperial Prussian 210 mm howitzer battery
- Third Reich universal/flak 105 mm battery
- Fort Gerharda (Ostbatterie, Prussian period batteries + torpedo launch battery)
- Third Reich batteries: Vineta-150 mm and Goeben-280 mm guns + fire control tower

Accommodation 7 (some hotel as 6)

7th day: 16 Sept. 2023 Saturday

Fortifications in the area of Świnoujście 2/2:

- Fort Anioła (Werk III, Prussian period battery/Soviet)
- Fort Zachodni (Westerbatterie, Prussian period battery/Soviet + USN gun emplacement)

Transfer back to Berlin (about 280 km distance)



