

The points on the map were selected and described by Oksywie residents.

Graphic marking of the items was prepared by:

Ania from Kreatywni, Ewelina Briszke, Renata Dąbrowska, Aleksandra Dylejko, Krystyna Grodowska, Agnieszka Jenerał, Stefania Stefania Karpiusz, Aneta Kłos, Mateusz Kolerta, Luiza Kostrzewa, Danuta Krygier, Agnieszka Magulska, Julia Magulska, Mateusz, Natalia, Oksywie Celebrities, Feliks Pliński, Wojciech Romaniuk, Grzegorz RZepa, Łukasz RZepa, Danuta Sitarz, Wiktoria Sobiecka, Sebastian Uzarek, Zosia and Ania.

Graphic design by Zespół wespół

Compiled by Sofia Pro,

2015-2016 – A project co-financed by the European Union from the financial means of The Cohesion Fund in the Operational Programme for Technical Support 2014-2020

## **OKSYWIE**

1. Ostrowicki Gorge is an incredible place situated in a military terrain. It's completely cut off from the world – barely anyone knows of its existence, and no one has really seen it.
2. To reach Oksywie's natural beach follow the route to the seafront. Once you are in Osada Rybacka, descend to the lower ground and turn left. Instead of an even sidewalk, wilderness meets the eye: waves and rocks. The seawall ends shortly after and everything looks like it did a century ago. It's pleasant and romantic, perfect for a stroll.
3. Beyond Osada Rybacka lies a vast meadow. There is no better place for watching the sea or stargazing. It's best done sitting or lying down. I wish to open an outdoor cinema and camping field there. It's possible to reach the beach from the meadow through the gorge but it is rather hazardous.
4. Pastures start from here, and immediately you can spot grazing horses and cows. No idea who they belong to, but it's cool to stare at them.
5. Osada Rybacka – Fishery Settlement, is a calm spot which gives off a maritime vibe. You know, Rybaki! We have the best view of the bay and the peninsula. People from the entire area come here to indulge themselves with the sight, but also to inhale plenty of iodine. It's the starting point for strolls. There's fresh air and fresh fish too, as luckily, fishermen still work there, and one of them is my neighbour. Recently they have even made a ropeway for transporting the fish. We wouldn't mind a similar sort of an elevator to transport people, as the descending road leading to the seafront and the beach is horribly steep.
6. Like many people from Oksywie and the whole Gdynia, I have a garden plot in this place. I go there on my bicycle and it takes me ten minutes to get there. I'm very glad that my children and grandchildren love this place as well.
7. The Boulevard is something completely new. Some people say that finally it looks more elegant. The others complain that there is too much concrete everywhere. But the truth is that everyone needs to go for a walk sometimes. So I stroll whenever I'm free, no matter the season. You can relax, sunbathe and clear your head. What a shame it's so hard to get there – the stairs are too steep for families with children and senior citizens.

8. We were assigned to a flat at Zielona by my employer, about forty years ago. At first I was crying with disappointment but now I would never move out. Boars seem to be the only nuisance now. They dig for food on lawns. Near my place there is a recreation path which we use for strolling with my children. If you have the sports spirit and some extra time to spend, you can make a 'walking loop' starting from Zielona Street near the garden plots, smelling lovely!, then going by the sea, listening to the waves! and going along the beach to Osada Rybacka - Fishing Settlement, and back. You will see many benches on your way there to sit down and contemplate.

9. Nothing is more valued in my neighbourhood than this in Błękitna Street. I've been living here since the 60's and I've always tried to make sure that there is a place to sit down outside. I used to work in a military unit and now I'm a taxi driver. Whenever I finish my work on my way home I love to sit down for a while and contemplate.

10. One could feel quite cramped in blocks of flats but mine is different. Luckily it is surrounded by lots of green areas and there's plenty of space around. I can see the whole Gdynia out of my windows. I just like being here.

11. The two rows of blocks of flats here look like long and narrow barracks. They run along Dickmana Street. Inside the blocks there are community flats. It makes the area tough but full of character.

12. There used to be a hillock – a social heart of the neighbourhood. The adults would take their dogs for a walk there or come on a date, the youngsters would run out from school, throw their rucksacks into a warming up bus at the end stop and run up through the thick bushes. Sledging down in winter, but more often sliding down on shoes, getting into district battles - everyone could have a glance from the top onto the whole estate and it was always good. It was awesome, mainly as there were hardly any adults. And then they appeared smashing this place to pieces. The hillock has only stayed in our memories, with those blocks of flats instead. It is flat there, quite strangely.

13. All intellectuals from Oksywie meet in Library No 13 in Podchorążych Street. They can find whatever they need there: a good book, interesting and cheerful staff with open minds. High level entertainment, education and culture, all at one place.

14. A playground near Podchorążych and Godebskiego Streets is exactly as it should be: away from the road, just the right size, peaceful and safe. Children play safely there and parents may finally rest – sit on a bench and get some tan. Not surprisingly, it is the best place to meet for families and their kids.

A meeting place for seniors and juniors has risen just by itself, with no special help, with space for talking and sharing.

15. A Firehouse is an attraction in itself for parents (it catches their eyes) and their kids. This is our local SAM's Fireman place of work.

16. What you can see now are lots of buildings, densely located one next to another. Back in the old days it was completely different. Between Dąbka and Bosmańska Streets grains and potatoes grew and meadows swamped with asphalt. We could ride a bike, draw with chalk on the streets, climb frames, it was safe then.

17. Where a school used to be, there is a monastic house now. A couple of nuns running a nursery live there. The school was operating until the 90s. I used to go to this school first before

being transferred to another one. Nobody had asked me about my opinion. We would play football outside which is impossible today.

18. A lake, a waterhole in fact. Ducks and dogs like bathing here. It would be nice to have a garden there.

19. A passage “in between” which is in fact a comfortable hole in a fence. We always pass through if we feel like walking around it, and practically, we never do. Thanks to this passage and many others, people take shortcuts to go up the hill to play football. Anyway, life was much easier before the fences appeared. The plan it to install the CCTV system but this is far too much.

20. “Kreatywni”, /Eng. The Creative/ a daily centre in Pułkownika Dąbka Street, has been here for a while. I came here first when I applied for a short-term voluntary work. After a month I decided to go full-time. I like these people and I spend a lot of time there. One can work with children and help them there. It is good to know that there is a meeting place where something can be done for the community: you can meet practically everyone there - children, teens, elderly people and young parents. This is where the map has been made :-).

21. Although there seems to be nothing exciting about Dickmana Street, it’s still interesting in some way. You can get everywhere around on foot. Children can play around, there are nice swings and when it’s warm we spend our whole days outside... Finally I am happy to be living here.

22. The naval cemetery is a place with a lovely view of the bay and the sea. Next to the cemetery there is my favourite path to the sea. When my family who live in the mountains come to visit me, they always want me to go down to the seaside this route – it’s difficult to get down though and I’m not so young anymore.

23. Near the cemetery there is a bunker from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. In the past, I used to meet my friends there and whoever wanted to boast of their courage would go inside. It is safe there now and the bunker has become a visible remnant of the Cold War.

24. A large part of our district is covered by forest. Here you can walk, ride or run with your dog. The green surroundings make it easier to calm down and relax. The forest is situated on a hill, so it is really interesting inside. This is why ‘the hills’ are a favourite gathering spot for local scouts to explore around and children to sledge in winter. Recently, the area has been cut down to make space for housing and fencing. No surprise there are no wild mushrooms any more. Red pines, parasols, porcinis used to grow there, so we would pick up even one or two baskets of them straight after work. Mushrooms do not like rubbish but who would care. It doesn’t look too good now, so more and more people are afraid to go there.

25. Bosman Shopping Centre is a meeting place for many parents and friends. If you run into somebody you know, shopping and gossiping start. The local life is flourishing. Kids have found many attractions too with trolley-cars and carousels.

26. You can find everything in Bosmańska Street- shops, a post office, a health centre and a bakery. Still, 40 years ago, when my husband got a flat while working for the shipyard, it was not like that. There used to be lots of garden lots where the blocks of flats and a shopping centre are now. The residents would grow vegetables there and chickens were running around. It all disappeared with the rise of new blocks of flats.

27. A football field between the new buildings was a much better place than the school one. You could meet your old friends there and play football. The old Oksywie had been awesome before the old spots disappeared. If we keep destroying these places the whole district will become more and more mundane.
28. Kępa Oksywska is a bit like a little seaside town with an old church in the middle, a cemetery next to it and a path leading to the beach. I love this place for being so historic – you can still see plenty of old houses from before the war. It gives the feeling what it was like in the past. Half of the houses have already been renovated, the others are still waiting. Mine is in a pretty good shape and it stands alone. It overlooks a military base which is just behind the fence.
29. There used to be an orchard where our parish priest grew apples, pears and plums. He was extremely proud of his welfare as the orchard looked like a proper plantation. We used to nick so much fruit that it was difficult to carry them home. Now there is a housing estate with a few houses.
30. St. Michael's Church remains the oldest building in Gdynia. Oksywie used to be the richest district of Gdynia. When we look back in history, it was little Gdynia attached to an old Oksywie, not the other way round. There is no point quarreling now which was first, yet the name will remain anyway. The church itself is a magical place, not only for the locals, as people from all over Gdynia come to visit it, even just for the sake of its location. There is no other church situated more beautifully than this one. I have special memories of this place as I got married there and I still cherish this moment looking at wedding photos with the view of the gulf.
31. Formoza is a military base on the sea. It is still in use: small vessels moor along the sides. It is connected to the land with a deck. A bit further, in Babie Doły, there is an old torpedo building of quite similar structure, but it is completely ruined.
32. The military zone is right across my fence, so somehow I feel connected to it even though there's no entry into it. Many years ago a land mine ripped two of my colleagues into pieces there. Now archeological excavation works are carried inside the military zone. From time to time old tombstones are found. These are all relics of the past which are worth visiting and taking care of.
33. An old cemetery is picturesque – it needs to be guarded and protected. I was raised in a block of flats opposite the cemetery, so naturally, when I was little, I used to go there to read the epitaphs and together with my friends we used to play “funerals” there. You can still find a great deal of stone heads of nobles which add to the patriotic atmosphere there. Not to mention that my friends and relatives are buried among them.
34. I lived in Żeglarzy Street for almost ten years, at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s. There used to be a kind of hotel for harbour workers, but it was a nice and quiet place. I remember going to a disco at “PAGEDA” basement almost every weekend. Now I live only several hundred meters away.
35. The Polish Naval Academy building is a part of a bigger complex from the interwar period. My husband would spend a lot of time there. Students from the Academy visit my library. I am glad that young people can study in this special Academy.

36. The Garrison church overlooks the port. It has the spirit of modernism and that's why it's so "Gdynia like".
37. In the past, here in Śmidrowicza Street, there used to be a well-known shopping place run by the Military Commercial Center. It was always well stocked, especially with meat, so people would head here from the whole area. Generally, thanks to the army, it was a bustling place, as the residents needed entertainment. There were some clubs open and a casino which always served delicious dinners and the famous Flotyła band. Some other attractions included a swimming pool which was public and obligatory. From a division accommodating thousands of people only a group of a thousand remained, so not much is left. What is even worse, the facilities which have been left are decaying. One of my neighbours, who is eighteen, wants to join a military school soon, so perhaps not everything is lost.
38. The entrance to the headquarters of the military port, the famous „three gates”. An interesting architecture and an element of a cultural landscape dating back to the interwar period.
39. Hardly anyone visits the naval port, but the place stimulates imagination. And when you say Gdynia in Poland, the image of a port comes to your mind and vice versa.
40. A football team Orkan used to play football matches at an old military stadium. My dad, who was in the army at the time, would go there with his colleagues. There was a rule that Sunday belonged to kids. We used to go there with our friends. The goal gates were put across the stadium. Next to the stadium there was the famous 'Grom' cinema, an extremely important place. Nowadays, it is closed for everyone. I can see the stadium from my window now and the very thought that this place is so empty makes me feel strange.
41. There was a time when half of my friends used to work at the Naval Shipyard. It was a long time ago. Currently, it is being closed down. It sounds a bit strange when you hear that it is the oldest shipyard in Poland. If it disappears, the area will become empty.