

Exhibition description

1. „Time Machine” – „A Man and a Bullet”, i.e. episodes from the Grodzisko fort history

The Grodzisko Fort (also: Gradowa Mountain Fort), i.e. the area of ancient fortifications that have been built on the Gradowa Mountain and nearby since the 17th century, is the place that is remembered by very few contemporary city inhabitants or tourists. This fascinating city corner located in the direct vicinity of the historic city centre is usually omitted during tours of Gdańsk.

The exhibition entitled “Time Machine” – “A Bullet and a Man” has been created to acquaint both tourists and Gdańsk inhabitants with the history of this city area. The exhibition consists of 11 permanent displays presented in historic, restored, post-fortress premises located on the top of fortifications, over the parade ground and the barracks, and in the former ammunition laboratory building. The objects displayed in shelters and artillery depots present not only selected episodes from the fortress history, but also issues concerning the art of war, e.g. the black gun-powder history, or a fortifier workshop. The sightseeing tour leading between newly formed – but in accordance with historic fortification plans – earthworks offers unforgettable impressions. There are moments when we cannot resist the feeling that with the help of a time machine we have been really transferred to the times of the Gradowa Mountain Fort greatness.

Apart from the exhibitions concerning the sieges of 1734, 1807, or 1813, the visitors may also learn something more about the Prussian garrison in Gdańsk, find the answer to questions about who had fun and lived in the Fort during the Free City of Danzig period, or to see how the so called Radio Free Europe jammer worked. The models of selected fortress objects with biographic data of fortifiers and aerial photographs, both contemporary and those of 1920s, definitely constitute an interesting variation. All displays have been enriched with audio recordings in which well-known Polish actors play the roles of historic figures.

With the help of the “Time Machine” – “A Bullet and a Man” exhibition you will be able to rediscover the Grodzisko fort, get to know its fascinating history, and realize how many secrets are still hidden in the slopes of the Gradowa Mountain.

2. "Energy, Sky, and Sun" exhibition

One of the most interesting objects in Grodzisko is that in which physics and astronomy reign today. The “Energy, Sky, and Sun” exhibition is presented in the Southern Caponiere. Due to the building architectural design and the theme of the exhibition, it has been divided into two parts: the Energy Laboratory and the Sky Laboratory.

The Energy Laboratory.

Each stand presents some type of energy (and each energy type can take various forms) or a transformation of one energy form into another. In two huge aquariums one can discover the source of the sea wave energy and the ways of using it. The sound is also a wave. And similarly to water waves, it also carries energy – this phenomenon can be observed at one of

the stands. So called “Newton’s cradle” presents the conservation of energy and momentum. A man uses enormous amounts of energy in his everyday life. How much? It can be tested at the „Energy in the kitchen” stand. The energy for our ovens and kettles has to be generated somehow. The technologies of generating electric energy are presented at the stands devoted to power industry. A visitor can learn there about various kinds of energy sources (from wood to uranium), or get to know the operation principles of various power plants (from thermal to nuclear ones).

The Sky Laboratory.

Astronomy is the main thematic thread of this part of the exhibition. One can study the structure of the Solar System or the whole Universe, and even get to know how human ideas about it have been changing. Astronomy is based mainly on observations, so it is natural that the stands devoted to this field present also astronomic instruments and their operation. Thus, we have got here optical instruments, as well as descriptions of geometrical optics and properties of a light ray. This part of the exhibition is supplemented by a set of incredible pictures from space (taken with the help of the ESO VLT telescope) that can be watched in nearly unearthly scenery created by the play of lights and sound effects. A narrow staircase leads from this part of the exhibition to a cellar under the building. What can be seen there? We do not want to disclose all Caponiere secrets – let our guests discover something on their own.

The exhibition divisions are, of course, conventional and flexible. Physics, regardless of applications, is coherent and uniform science. Thus, the presence of some stands in this or that part of the building may seem strange, although we assure you it is not a coincidence. This exhibition encourages you to discover the secrets of physics and astronomy – the exhibition animators are ready to help you and answer any question.



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