



WARSAW

an independent guide to the city

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THE GUIDE

Thank you for buying this guide!

When you travel to a new city, you can only dream of figuring out the coolest events and the best stuff to do. By using this guide - in conjunction with the website for the latest updates - you get the best chance to experience Warsaw in the best way possible.

On the website:

1) On Thursday, we provide a curated Weekend guide with our favorite events in Warsaw. A super cool beer festival? A night food market? A designer market? A techno party next to a lightning generator? That kind of stuff ([check out the past editions here](#)).

2) We are collaborating with the best tour operators. We tried so many experiences that we've lost count by now, but on the site you can find only our favourite ones. Check out our [selection of experiences & tours here](#).



THE AUTHORS

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WARSAW THEMES

An introduction to Warsaw

"Warsaw is a vibrant European capital with a Western attitude, a Slavic heart, and a Soviet scar".



WWII

To say that Warsaw had a tough time in the past 200 years is a euphemism. Did you know that Warsaw was almost completely annihilated during WWII? Or that 800.000 Varsovians died?

During WWII, Poland has suffered a higher number of deaths as a percentage of the population than any other country in the world. If you want to learn more about WWII in Warsaw you must go to the [Warsaw Rising Museum](#).

The Old Town

After WWII Varsovians flooded the ruins of their city with one goal: to rebuild what the Nazis had destroyed. The task seemed ridiculous and impossible, as over 85% of the city was destroyed, but for five years the citizens restored the Old Town to perfection using paintings from the 18th century. Because of this incredible reconstruction, Warsaw is now called "A Phoenix that rose from its ashes" and Warsaw Old Town is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





Old Town Market Place, 1945.



Reconstruction of the Royal Castle

Jewish Heritage

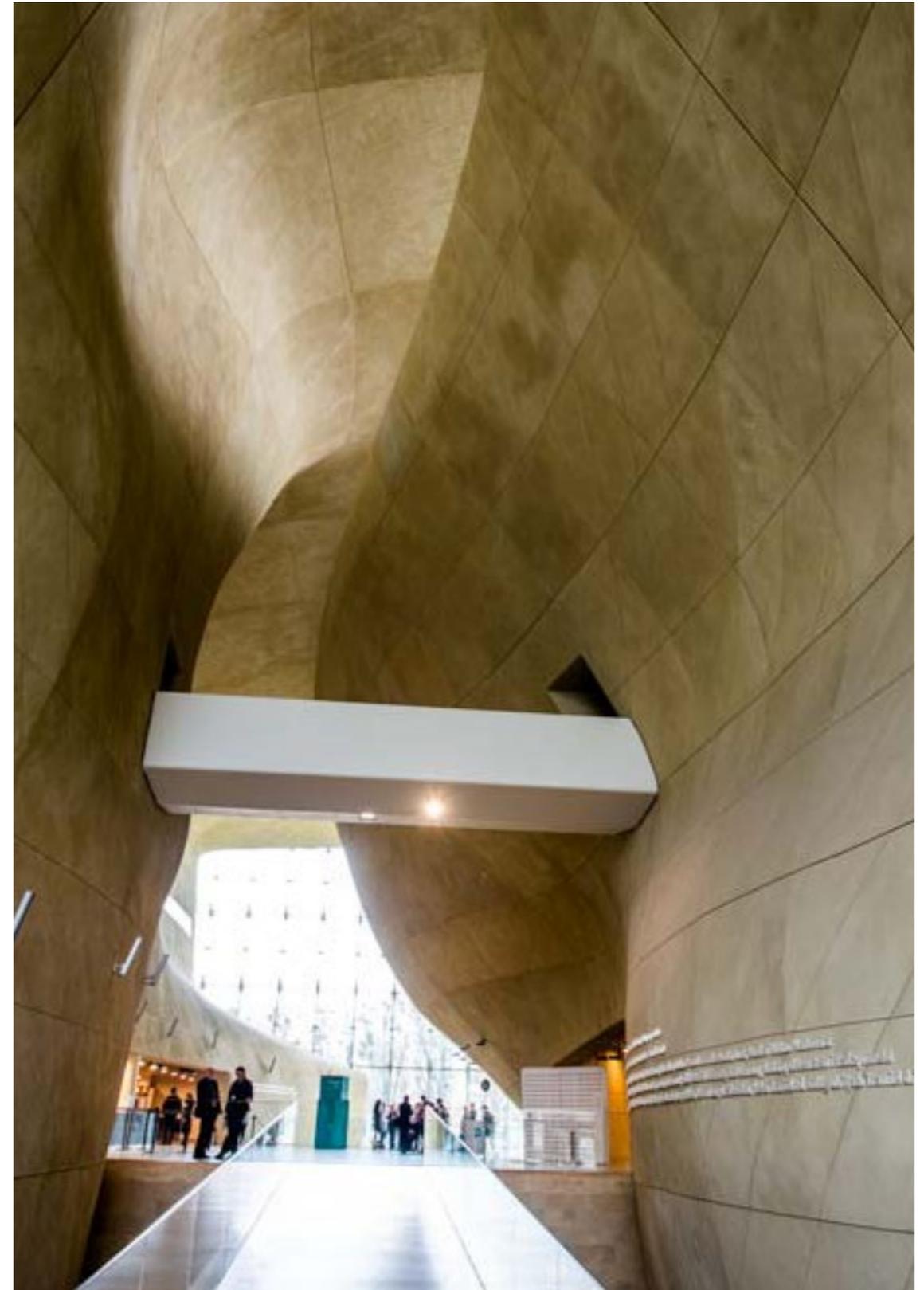
Before WWII Warsaw was a truly multicultural city and more than 30% of Varsovians were Jews.

The obvious place to visit if you want to know more about Jewish Warsaw is the [POLIN museum](#). The [memorial Umschlagplatz](#), the [Jewish Cemetery in Okopowa](#), the [many boundaries of the Warsaw Ghetto](#) and the Jewish Synagogue are also worth visiting.

If you want to visit the remnants of the Jewish district you can also [join this tour](#).

Communist years

Between 1952 and 1989, Poland was called the Polish People's Republic. Under the influence of the USSR, Poles were watched, censored. The socialist system influenced every sphere of a person's life. For people like me and you it is hard to imagine how difficult it must have been to live under such a controlled regime,





Czas
APOKALIPSY
Dramat • Kinowa • USA • L.B.
Reż. F. Ford Coppola • Główn. Madsen Brandt

Chris Niedenthal, Warsaw, December 1981. First day of Martial Law. Kino Moskwa screens Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now"

but if you want to learn a bit more about Poland under communism you can visit the [Palace of Culture and Science](#), the [Neon Museum](#), and the [Museum of Life under Communism](#). Or join the [Warsaw Alternative Tour](#), which gives a very broad overview of life in those years and covers the most relevant spots.

Modern times

Warsaw is different from any other Polish city.

Warsaw's destruction during the Second World War fuelled huge reconstruction projects and architectural experimentation. Because of this, today you can find strong architectural juxtapositions like the socialist realist beast (the Palace of Culture) standing next to modern skyscrapers, or post-industrial tenement houses at a short distance from baroque buildings.

Vegan Friendly

In the last decade, Warsaw transformed itself into the third best city in the world for vegan

and vegetarian cuisine (according to the number of vegan Restaurants per capita and other factors). Think that in [Śródmieście](#) alone (the central district of Warsaw) you can count more than forty top-rated vegan and vegetarian restaurants in less than a square mile. And you can find everything from vegan pizza to vegan sushi.

A green city

Contrary to common belief, Warsaw is a very green city. 30% of its area is covered by fields, parks, gardens, and forests. The [Łazienki Park](#) and the Saski Garden are historical icons, while the University Library has one of the largest [roof gardens](#) in Europe (more than 10,000 m²). Noteworthy are also the Kampinoski National Park, located right on the edge of Warsaw's boundaries, and the green banks of the Vistula, which are home to more than 40 different species of animals.





Park Skaryszewski



ITINERARIES

Warsaw in three days

The best way to experience Warsaw in a short time.



About this itinerary

The most important thing you absolutely must do when visiting Warsaw is to understand its history.

We believe that the best way to learn Warsaw's history is not with books. My advice is to take a tour of the city on the first day of your stay.

Once you've done that, you can continue your trip with the necessary knowledge.



DAY ONE

Morning and Lunch

Start off with a tour. There are [several free ones](#) to choose from but we recommend "[Warsaw Alternative Tour](#)" (185 PLN - 43 euro, 10% [discount](#) for the owners of this guide) because it allows you to cover a lot more ground in just a few hours.

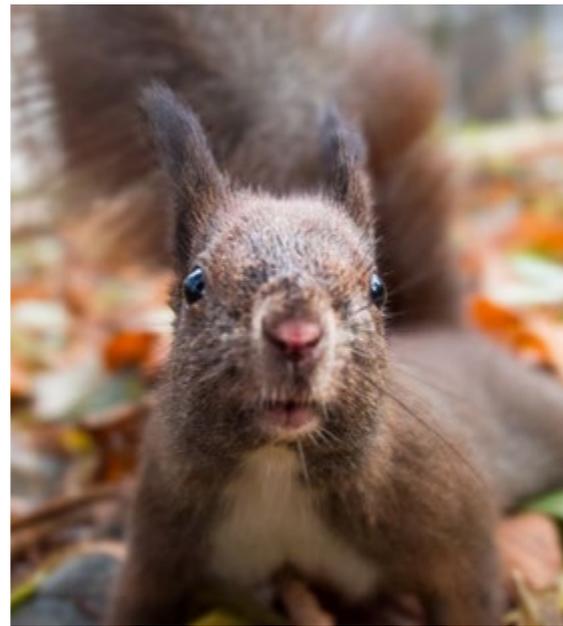
The Warsaw Alternative tour brings you on a time warping experience, from the communist times to WWII and finally back to modern times. The tour ends with a lunch in a local eatery where you can sample some delicious Polish dishes.

- Pick up from the hotel
- Driving around on a communist fire van (visit Jewish sites, Communist sites, as well as a bit of the [Praga district](#))
- **Lunch included**





Warsaw Alternative Tour



Price: entrance to the park is FREE
Opening times: 9AM-8PM
Suggested entrance: western gate
from Ujazdowskie Avenue

DAY ONE

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon in [Łazienki Park](#), probably the most popular park in Warsaw. Start off with the Palace on the Isle, an elegant neoclassical palace surrounded by lovely canals, and then check out the Old Orangery, which hosts the Royal Theatre, one of the few remaining authentic 18th-century court theatres in Europe.

Spend the rest of the afternoon strolling around the park, spotting squirrels and peacocks (and if you are lucky, a deer), and relax at the tea house on the premises of the park.

Cost saving tip: the entrance to the park is free, but the entrance to the buildings costs between 10 and 25 PLN. You can get a pass for 40 PLN which includes all the buildings OR go on Thursday, when the entrance to every building in the complex is free of charge.

DAY ONE

Evening

Walk around the Old Town. To not be missed is the Old Town Market Square, where you can admire colourful painted facades and take a picture with the Warsaw Mermaid.

Continue with Plac Zamkowy, characterized by the popular Sigmund Column. It's interesting to know that the column in the square is not the original one. The original column lies on the right hand side of the [Royal Castle](#). If you look at the original column carefully, you can notice some bullet holes.

Right next to Plac Zamkowy, lies the Barbakan, the atmospheric fortification surrounding the Old Town. It is worth a stroll all year around, but particularly so in winter when you can find a nice [Christmas market](#).

Continue your stroll on the Krakowskie Przedmieście Street and Nowy Świat.





DAY ONE

Evening (continues)

A local snack and vodka!

End the day at “Meta Seta Galareta”, a small shot bar and eatery that retained a lot of its original communist vibe. It is a cult place for many Varsovians (me included). Order a vodka shot and a tatar (or a marinated herring).

Read more about the [shot bars in Warsaw](#).

Check out our section about [restaurants in Warsaw](#).



Price for a vodka shot: 5 PLN

Price for a Polish tatar: 10 PLN

Opening times: 9AM–6AM, Sunday 9AM–12AM

Address: Foksal 21 (among others)



DAY TWO

Morning

Let's start the day from the main attraction: the [Royal Castle](#).

Start with the multimedia exposition "The Royal Castle – from Destruction to Reconstruction", an important part of your visit that will give you a very good overview of the castle's history.

After the exposition, take some time to explore the "Lanckoroński Collection" and admire two remarkable Rembrandt paintings ("The Girl in a Picture Frame" and "A Scholar at his Writing Table").

Finally, conclude the tour with the "Royal Castle Route", where you can admire the perfect reconstruction of the castle's interiors.

Cost Saving Tip: The entrance to the Royal Castle is free of charge on Wednesday.



Royal Castle:

Average visit length: 2-3 hours

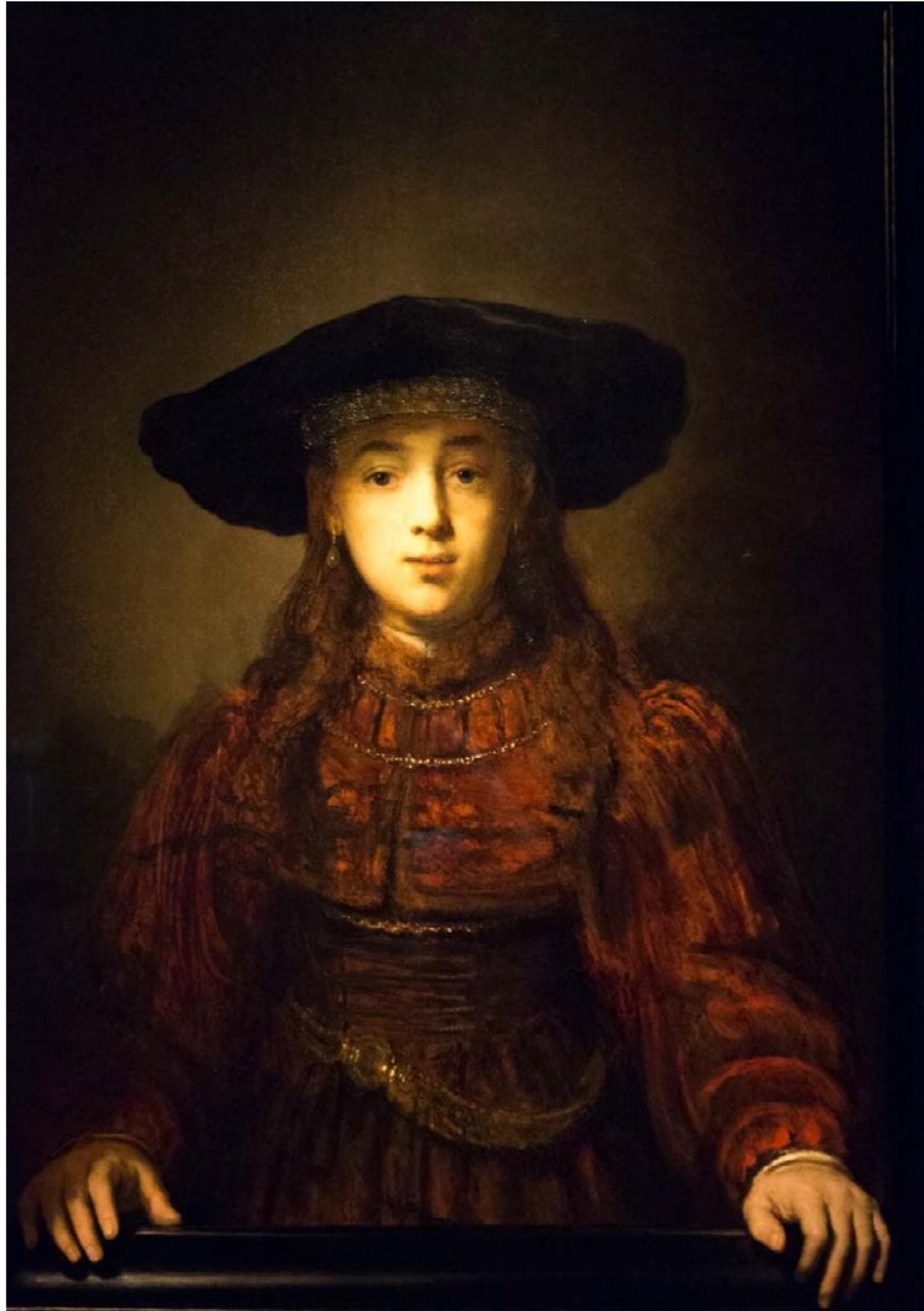
Price: regular rate – 20,00 PLN.

reduced rate – 10,00 PLN

Opening times: 10AM–6PM,
Sunday (11AM–6PM), Closed on
Monday.

Address: plac Zamkowy 4





The Girl in a Picture Frame.



St. Anna tower:
Price: 6 PLN
Opening times: 10AM - 9PM,
Saturday – Sunday 11AM -
10PM
Address:
Krakowskie Przedmieście 68

DAY TWO

Morning (continue)

If you started the visit of the Royal Castle at 10AM, you probably still have time for a quick visit of the St. Anna tower.

Climb up the 147 steps leading to the roof terrace and enjoy the stunning view of the Castle Square, the Old Town and the Krakowskie Przedmieście street. From up here, you can also see the Palace of Culture.

Lunch

Head to “Bambino”, one of the best Milk Bars in Warsaw. [Milk bars](#) are some of the cheapest and most authentic eateries in Poland and you can try several traditional Polish dishes for next to nothing.

The menu can be a bit confusing, so I would suggest you ask for “Pierogi z mięsem” (Polish dumplings with meat), “bigos” (cabbage and meat stew), “Kotlet Schabowy” (fried pork cut-



let), and Kompot (traditional beverage made from boiled fruits).

Note: Be aware that this is not the classical restaurant experience: there are no waiters, no English speakers and to order your meal you have to stand at the cash desk at the entrance.

(Read more about [Bar Mleczny](#)).

Afternoon

Go to the [Palace of Culture and take the lift to the 30th floor](#). The panoramic terrace has a 360° view that allows to see the entire city.

Grab a coffee, enjoy the view and take a selfie!

(Read more about the [Palace of culture here](#))

Since you are here: Check out the [Dollhouse Museum](#), a unique private collection of wonderful dollhouses. It is surprisingly interesting! Also, a few hundreds meters from the Palace of culture lies the [Fotoplastikon](#) the oldest stereoscopic machine still running in its original location.



Bar Mleczny "Bambino":

Price: the menu suggested on top will be around 20/30 PLN

Opening times: 8AM–8PM, Saturday and Sunday 9AM–6PM

Address: Hoża 19



Fotoplastikon:
Price: 6 PLN
Opening times: Wed - Sun 10AM - 6PM
Address: Al. Jerozolimskie 51



Palace of Culture:
Price: 20 PLN (normal ticket)
Opening times: 10AM to 8PM
Address: plac Defilad 1

DAY TWO

Afternoon (continues)

If you still have time, go to the [Warsaw Rising museum](#) (it will take you around 3 hours to visit). It is the perfect place to learn more about the struggles that Varsovians went through during the Uprising.

[Read more about the Warsaw Rising Museum.](#)

As an alternative, go to the [POLIN museum](#), a “narrative museum” which presents a 1000-years history of Polish Jews.

Tip: the POLIN building itself is worth visiting because of its award-winning postmodern architecture.

The entrance to the hall is free of charge.



Warsaw Rising museum:

Price: 25 PLN

Opening times:

M, W, F 8AM- 6PM

Thursday 8AM- 8PM

Weekend - 10AM-6PM

Tuesday closed

Address: Grzybowska 79

POLIN museum:

Price: 25 PLN

Opening times:

M, Thursday, F 10AM - 6PM

W and Weekends 10AM - 8PM

Tuesday closed

Address: Anielewicza 6

[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance to the core exhibition](#)





Replica of a B24 Liberator, Warsaw Rising Museum



Zapiecek:
Price: 23 PLN for 9 pierogi
Opening times: from 11AM to 11PM
Address: Aleje Jerozolimskie 28

Pawilony:
Price: 8/10 PLN for a beer
Opening times: from 11AM to 11PM
Address: Nowy Świat 22/28

DAY TWO

Dinner

Go to Rondo de Gaulle where you can see a [curious palm tree](#), an art installation by Joanna Rajkowska, that was consived as a social experiment but soon became an official symbol of Warsaw.

On the right side of the street (Aleje Jerozolimskie 28) there's a Zapiecek, a restaurant where you can try many different kinds of pierogi (typical Polish dumplings) and breath an almost surreal Polish atmosphere (it looks very touristy but also locals go here sometimes).

Evening

After dinner, take Nowy Świat and enter the gate number 25. You are now at [Pawilony](#), one of the liveliest spots in Warsaw and, without a doubt, the best place to relax with a beer (or get started for a party)!

[Check out the section about nightlife in Warsaw for more info](#)).

DAY THREE

Morning

It's time to cross the mighty Vistula river and head to the infamous [Praga district](#).

Start with the [Neon Museum](#), which hosts the biggest collection of neons in Europe.

Finish the morning with a quick visit to the Praga band monument. You can select the music by sending a text and let the band play a song for you (the numbers to text are on the drum).

Lunch

Pyzy Flaki Gorące is a true hidden spot in Warsaw: small, unpretentious and cheap. If you are into fatty dishes, try "pyzy", a delicacy typical of the east bank of the Vistula river.

Afternoon

Venture to Bazar Różyckiego, the oldest existing market in the city.



Neon museum:

Price: 12 PLN

Opening times: Monday to Friday
from 12 to 5PM

Saturday 12 to 6PM

Sunday 11AM to 5PM

Address: Soho Factory, Mińska 25





Pyzy Flaki Gorące.

Dinner and beers

Stop for dinner at W Oparach Absurdu, a nice little pub with a bohemian interior and a welcoming atmosphere. The pierogi here are probably the best in Warsaw.

If you want to be 100% Polish, order a vodka with your pierogi.



Museum of Polish Vodka:

Price: 40,00 PLN

Opening times: 11AM - 8PM

Address: Plac Konesera 2

W Oparach Absurdu:

Price: FREE

Opening times: 12PM-2M (4AM on weekends)

Address: Ząbkowska 6

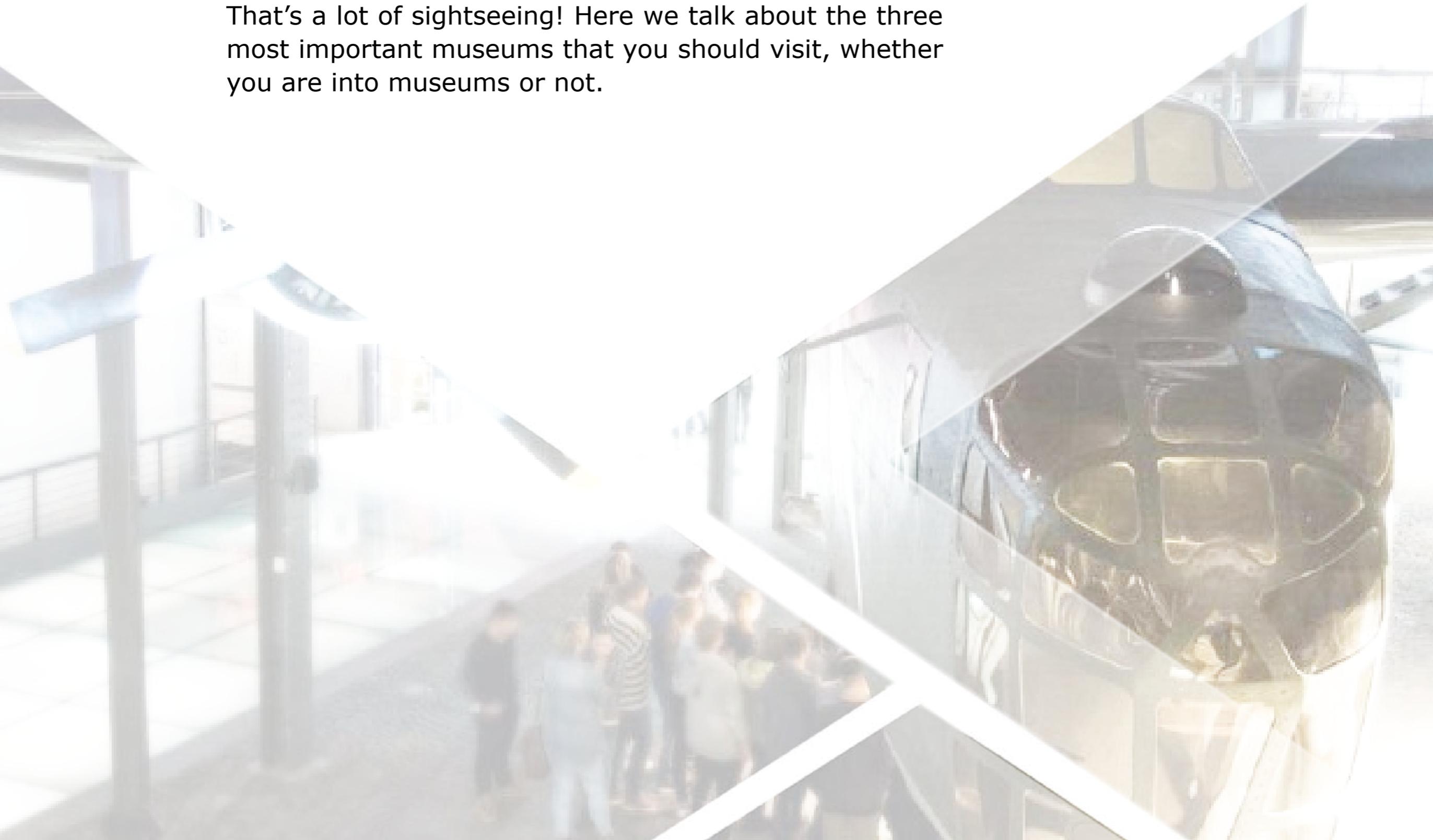




MUST-VISIT MUSEUMS

More than 70 museums you can choose from.

That's a lot of sightseeing! Here we talk about the three most important museums that you should visit, whether you are into museums or not.



The Royal Castle

The Royal Castle in Warsaw, first built in the 14th century, went through some dreadful times throughout its life and was eventually completely destroyed by Nazi Germany during WWII.

But don't do the mistake of being put off by the fact that the Royal Castle is a reproduction of the original (many tourists do).

That's actually where things become truly interesting.

In order to rebuild the castle, Varsovians had to fight the Communist regime (that for obvious reasons had no interest in restoring a strong Polish identity). In the years 1945-1970, the Communist authorities delayed making a decision on whether to rebuild the Castle or not. Such decision was taken only in 1971, but the reconstruction was possible solely thanks to voluntary contributions.

Warsaw is nicknamed "Phoenix" because it "was burned to the ground only to rise again from the ashes".

The Royal Castle is the emblem of Warsaw's tenaciousness and will to exist.

The Royal Castle – from Destruction to Reconstruction

I suggest you start your visit from the exposition "The Royal Castle – from Destruction to Reconstruction".

This exhibition walks you through three rooms, each one dedicated to one of the three major stages of the life of the Royal castle: the golden times, the destruction during WWII, and, finally, the reconstruction.

The Royal "Castle Route"

After the exposition, you should continue your visit with the "Castle Route", where you walk through the 32 exquisitely restored rooms of the Royal Castle, each one packed with original European artworks and furniture.



You will also see the room in which Poles drafted the first modern constitution in Europe (just a couple of years younger than the American one).

The Lanckoroński Collection

Finally, finish your visit with the "Lanckoroński Collection", where among other great paintings, you can see the "Girl in the Picture Frame" and "A Scholar at his Writing Table", two remarkable Rembrandt paintings.

Note: I was lucky to be alone with these two masterpieces for as long as I wanted and it was an experience I still treasure. If you want to be alone too, I suggest you go in the morning of weekdays, when the Castle is a lot less crowded. Find out more on the [official website](#).

Royal Castle:

Price: 30 PLN (about 6-7 EUR), FREE on Sundays and the whole month of November.

Address: plac Zamkowy 4





Throne Room Royal Castle in Warsaw

The Warsaw Rising Museum

The Warsaw Rising Museum – first opened in 2004 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising – recreates the atmosphere, history and struggles that Varsovians went through in the attempt to liberate their city from Nazi oppressors.

The Warsaw Uprising

The Warsaw Uprising is one of the darkest moments in recent history, yet it is often overlooked by the western society. Warsaw was almost completely annihilated and hundreds thousands people died fighting for their freedom (no other city saw such a massacre of civilians during WWII as Warsaw and [Poland saw the highest percentage of death as a percentage of the population \(17% of the population died\) during WWII.](#)

The Exhibition

It is a hard task to create an exhibition about such tragedy, but the curators did an outstanding job.

The museum is divided into five subsequent sections, leading the visitors through a chronological journey from the beginning of the war until the aftermath and the Soviet invasion.

Note: It's a good idea to take the audio guide (10 PLN), which will help you with your orientation. If you decide to avoid the audioguide, you can still follow the audio guide numbers on the wall (which is free!).

Section I

The first section is characterized by its cobblestone floor, the broken bricks scattered on the floor and the sounds typical of a war zone. In the middle of the room, a metal wall pulses rhythmically, as to symbolize the heartbeat of Warsaw.

In this section, you'll learn about the daily struggle that Varsovian had to go through from the beginning of the war until "Operation Storm".

Section II

In section II you'll learn about the first days of



the Uprising and the terrible living conditions that Varsovians had to suffer. For example, you can check out a life size replica of a sewage used by Poles to move out of sight of Nazi Germans.

Section III

Section III shows the intensification of fights in September (the second month of the Uprising) and continues with the Polish defeat and the creation of the PKWN (Polish Committee of National Liberation), a puppet government fully controlled by the Soviet Union.

Section IV

In section IV you can see a remarkable replica of a "B24 liberator" (the allied forces plane that used to bring supplies to the city), watch the screening of "City of Ruins," (a five-minute 3-D aerial video over the ruins of Warsaw after WWII), and a short documentary made from original WWII footage.

Note: some of the 3d glasses are scratched, pick one that is not or the viewing experience



"Watch out, Germans!". The sewage passages were often marked like this to avoid being heard or to warn others to not get out from that hole.





Frame from "City of Ruines", Warsaw Rising Museum

will suffer badly. If the line for the movie is too long, you can always watch it later on YouTube.

Section V

In section V you'll see everyday utensils and weapons used by the SS as well as one more life size sewage replica (one of the most trafficked sewage used by Varsovians during the uprising).

When to go and additional info

Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8AM – 6PM

Thursday 8AM – 8PM

Saturday and Sunday 10AM – 6PM

Tuesday – closed

ADMISSION PRICES:

Adult – 18 PLN

Discounted – 14 PLN

Free On Sunday

Note: On “Free Sundays” the museum is really overcrowded as thousands of locals visit the museum on this day (with an average of 3000 visitors per day).



Freedom Park

In Freedom Park can find a memorial wall with over 10.000 names of insurgents who died during the Uprising. Looking at the wall gives a clear idea of the size of this number.

Halfway along the wall, you can see the Mon-ter, a 230 kg bell dedicated to General Antoni Chruściel, the de facto commander of all the armed forces during the Warsaw Uprising.



Memorial Wall with the names of 10000 insurgents who died during the Warsaw Uprising.

On the other side of the wall, you can find a collection of Uprising-inspired street art. Definitely worth a look.



'When I die in battle, give me a name, my hard, soldierly soil'. This is a poem from Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, one of the greatest Polish poets of the 20th century. He died at the age of 24 while fighting during the Warsaw Uprising.



"Też walczyłyśmy" which means "We also fought".



"Was it a bullet, little son, or did your heart break?" an excerpt from another of Baczyński's poems.

POLIN – Museum of the History of Polish

The POLIN – also called “Museum of the History of Polish Jews” – lies on the grounds of the destroyed Jewish district. It opened its doors in 2013, for the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Thanks to the multi-award winning architecture, you will already be deep into the exhibition before you even pay for your ticket. The concrete waves in the entrance refer to the Exodus (parting of the red sea by God when Moses was guiding the escape of the Israelites from Egypt).

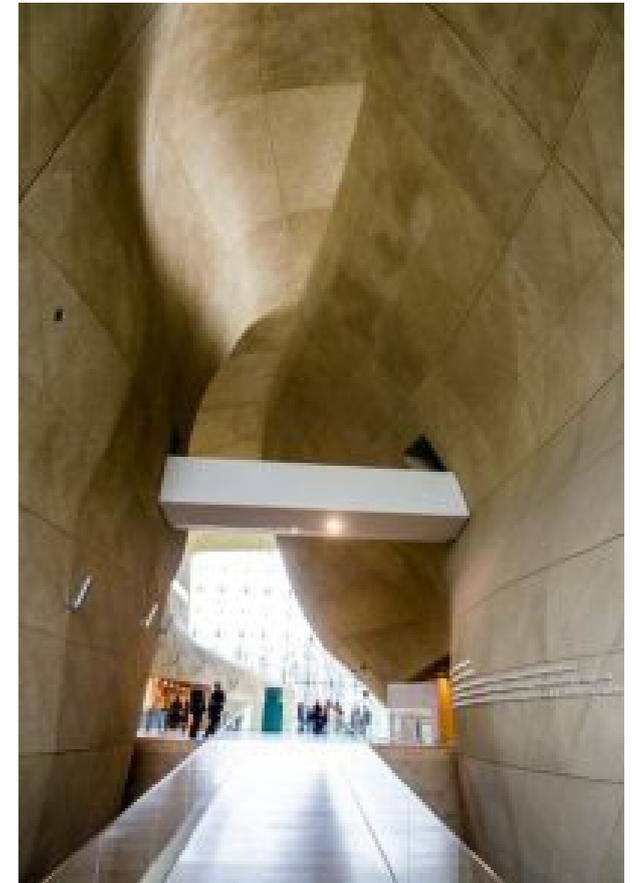
The exhibition will bring you on a thousand years journey where you will learn about Jewish history in Poland: from the arrival of the first Jewish merchants, through the “Paradisus Iudaeorum” (Paradise of the Jews in Latin) of the 16th century, until the mass massacres by Nazi Germany in WWII.



The entrance is 25 PLN (or about 6 EUR), FREE on THURSDAYS.

Find out more about this must-see attraction in Warsaw on [the official website](#).

[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance to the core exhibition](#)

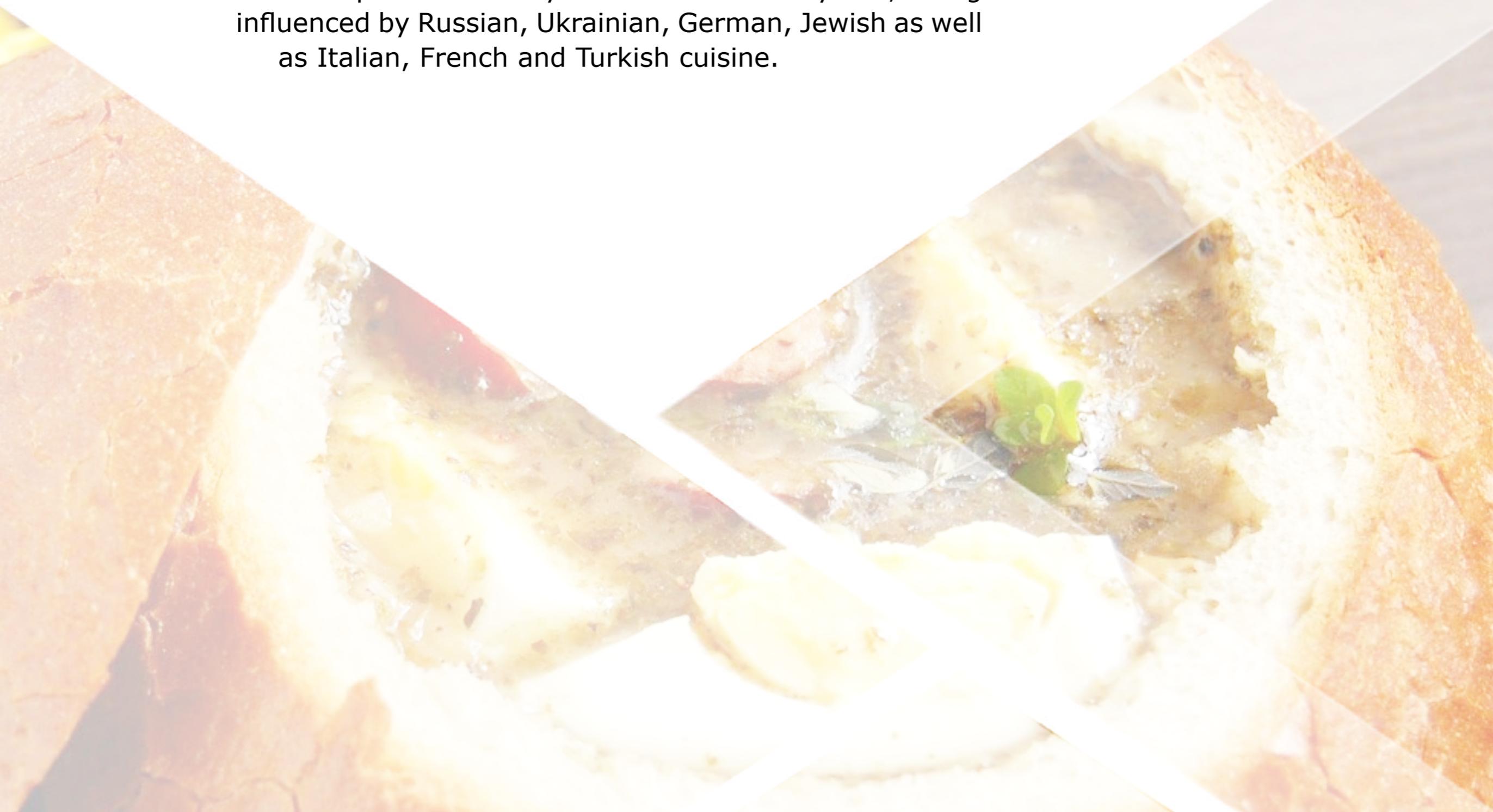




LOCAL FOOD

Polish cuisine is hearty, tasty and rich in meat.

It developed eclectically over hundreds of years, being influenced by Russian, Ukrainian, German, Jewish as well as Italian, French and Turkish cuisine.





There are many Bar Mleczny in Warsaw.

Make sure you visit one of these:

- *Prasowy*
- *Bambino*
- *Sady*

Bar Mleczny

Bar Mleczny literally means Milk Bar and that's because the first Bar Mleczny, which was opened in Warsaw in 1896, had a menu mainly based on dairies.

Today, however, you can eat a pretty wide range of traditional Polish food.

What keeps attracting both locals and tourists is - beside the food being authentic - the convenient price. For around 20 PLN (5 €) you can have a full meal composed of soup, main course and a drink (kompot).

Don't expect the best service though. You'll first have to line up to order and then line up again to collect your food.

Note: Sometimes the dish is not ready to be served immediately. In such case, you have to wait at the table until the lady screams the name of your dish. Keep that in mind!



During communist times Milk Bar's popularity exploded and the number of restaurants in the whole Poland soared to 40.000.

After the fall of the USSR, the Milk Bar was seen as a relic of the past and most people abandoned it in favor of "fancier" restaurants.

Today, however, Milk Bars are back in fashion and their number is rising again.

The menu at a Milk Bar

The daily menu will be 100% in Polish so keep in mind these dishes when you go there:

Soups (zupy):

- Pomidorowa (z ryżem) – tomato soup, usually served with rice
- Żurek – thick sour rye soup with hard boiled eggs and Polish sausage
- Ogórkowa – soup made of salted sour cucumbers

Main courses (dania główne):

- Pierogi – Polish dumplings with either meat

(pierogi z mięsem), or mashed/pureed potatoes, cottage cheese and onions (pierogi ruskie).

- Bigos – a stew of sauerkraut, polish sausage and other kinds of meat
- Kotlet schabowy – polish pork cutlet
- Gulasz – meat stew seasoned with paprika and other spices

Except for Pierogi, all other dishes will be served with either potato (ziemniaki), buckwheat (kasza) or rice (ryż) and are always accompanied by a side salad (surówka). You have to tell the lady which kind of side dish you want.



Żurek

Piekarnia & Pączek

Polish bread is one of the best I have ever eaten and Polish piekarnia (bakery) is up to Italian “forno” or French “boulangerie” standards.

“Piekarnias” are found in almost every corner of the street in Warsaw - there are literally hundreds of them - and this makes it the perfect place if you are looking for a cheap and healthy bite.

If you happen to find one, you should definitely try a “pączek”, a mouth-watering donut traditionally filled with wild rose jam (but you can find it in many other varieties).

The most famous place to eat a pączek is Zagoździński, in Wola (open since 1925), but you can find good pączki in every bakery.

Pączek is the signature of Polish sweets, you really have to try it!



Piekarnia Zagoździński:

Hours:

M-S: 9AM-2PM

Sunday Closed

Address: Górczewska 15



Pączek



Zapiekanke

The Zapiekanke is an open-faced toasted sandwich made of half baguette or other long kind of bread.

In the 70s, during the austerity of the communist regime, it was usually topped with just mushrooms, cheese, and ketchup. Today - besides the traditional kind which is still popular - there are many more varieties.

The best place to eat it in Warsaw is “Zapieksy Luxusowe”. They get their fresh bread from a local bakery every single day and top it with local ingredients (and the portions are huge!).

Try the “Firmowa Zapiekanke” which is toasted bread with Polish sheep cheese, crispy bacon, and grilled onions.

Zapieksy Luxusowe

Hours:

Friday 11AM-4AM

Saturday 11AM-3AM

Sunday 12-10PM

Monday - Thursday 11AM-11PM

Price: 11.5 PLN

Address: Widok 19, Warsaw



The Vegan District

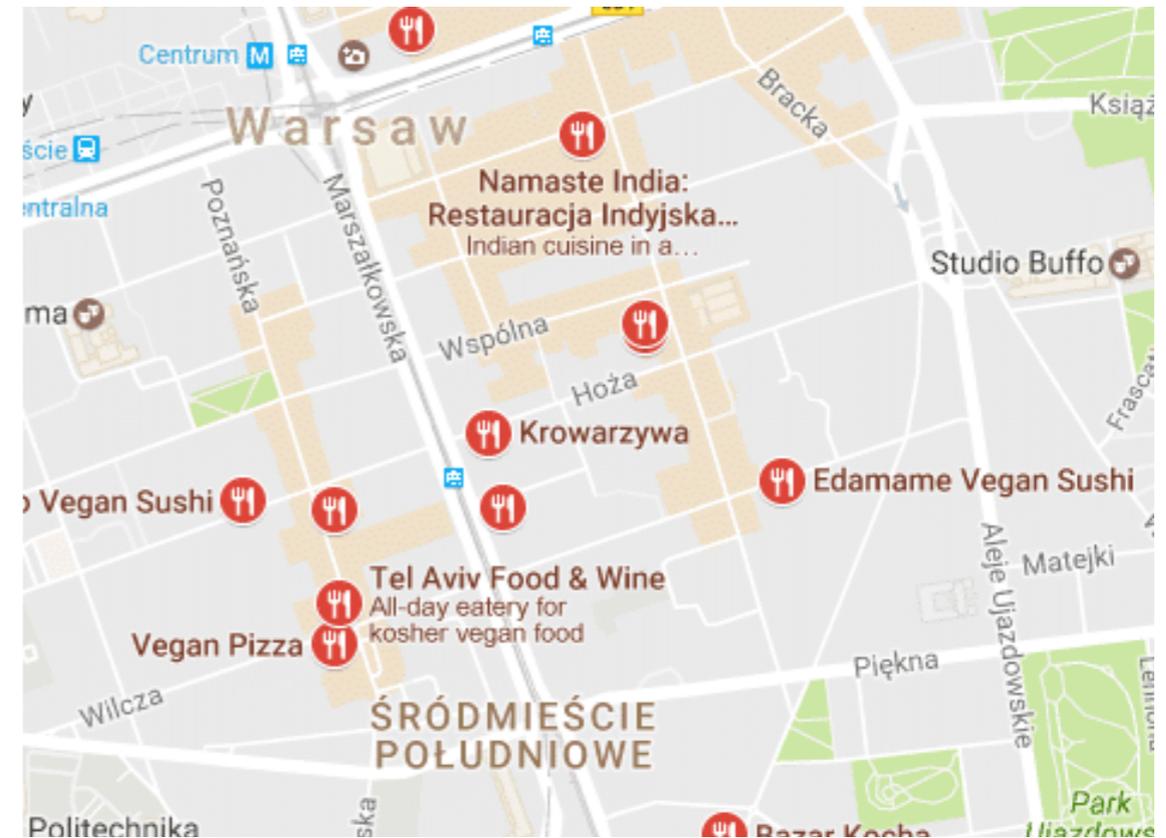
Polish cuisine is renowned for being rich in meat, but vegetarian and vegan restaurants are really easy to find in Warsaw. More and more Varsovians are jumping on the vegetarian/vegan trend and countless restaurants are popping up everywhere.

Warsaw is a vegan heaven!

You will find basically every kind of cuisine you can think of, but converted into vegan only: vegan sushi, vegan Indian and vegan pizzas are just a few examples! In just one square kilometer there are over 20 vegan/vegetarian restaurants rated more than 4.5 (on Google).

I call this area “the vegan district”.

Two Vegan restaurants worth noting are Krowarzywa Vegan Burger and Tel-Aviv Food & Wine.



Krowarzywa Vegan Burger

Hours:

Every day: 11AM–11PM

Address: *Marszałkowska 27/35*

Tel-Aviv Food & Wine:

Hours:

Friday 10AM–2AM

Saturday 10AM–2AM

Sunday 10AM–11PM

Monday 10AM–12:30AM

Tuesday 10AM–12:30AM

Wednesday 10AM–12:30AM

Thursday 10AM–12:30AM

Address: *Poznańska 11*



Krowarzywa Vegan Burger



Local Market: Hala Mirowska

Originally built at the end of the 19th century, Hala Mirowska was the biggest market in the city until its destruction in WWII. It was then rebuilt in the 50s and today serves its original function of an organic food market.

Here in Hala Mirowska you can experience the authentic vibe of a 1990 Warsaw food market, deal with non-English speaking farmers and buy the freshest local products. I suggest you try kabanos (smoked dry sausages), oscypek (smoked cheese from the mountains) or śledź (traditional herring marinated in hundreds of different ways).

In the indoor part, you can also find local sweets like the Wuzetka (traditional Warsaw cake), Szarlotka (Polish apple pie) or Pączek (among the others).

If you like old school organic markets as much as I do, you should definitely drop by.



Hala Mirowska:
visit in the morning. Most of the merchants are farmers from the outskirts of Warsaw. Many of them will leave in the afternoon and the market will feel kinda "dead".

Address: plac Mirowski 1



Hala Koszyki

Hala Koszyki is a hip food court, very similar to the “Foodhallen” in Amsterdam or the “Mathallen” in Oslo.

Varsovians have mixed opinions about Hala Koszyki as some think it is “a posh place for hipsters”.

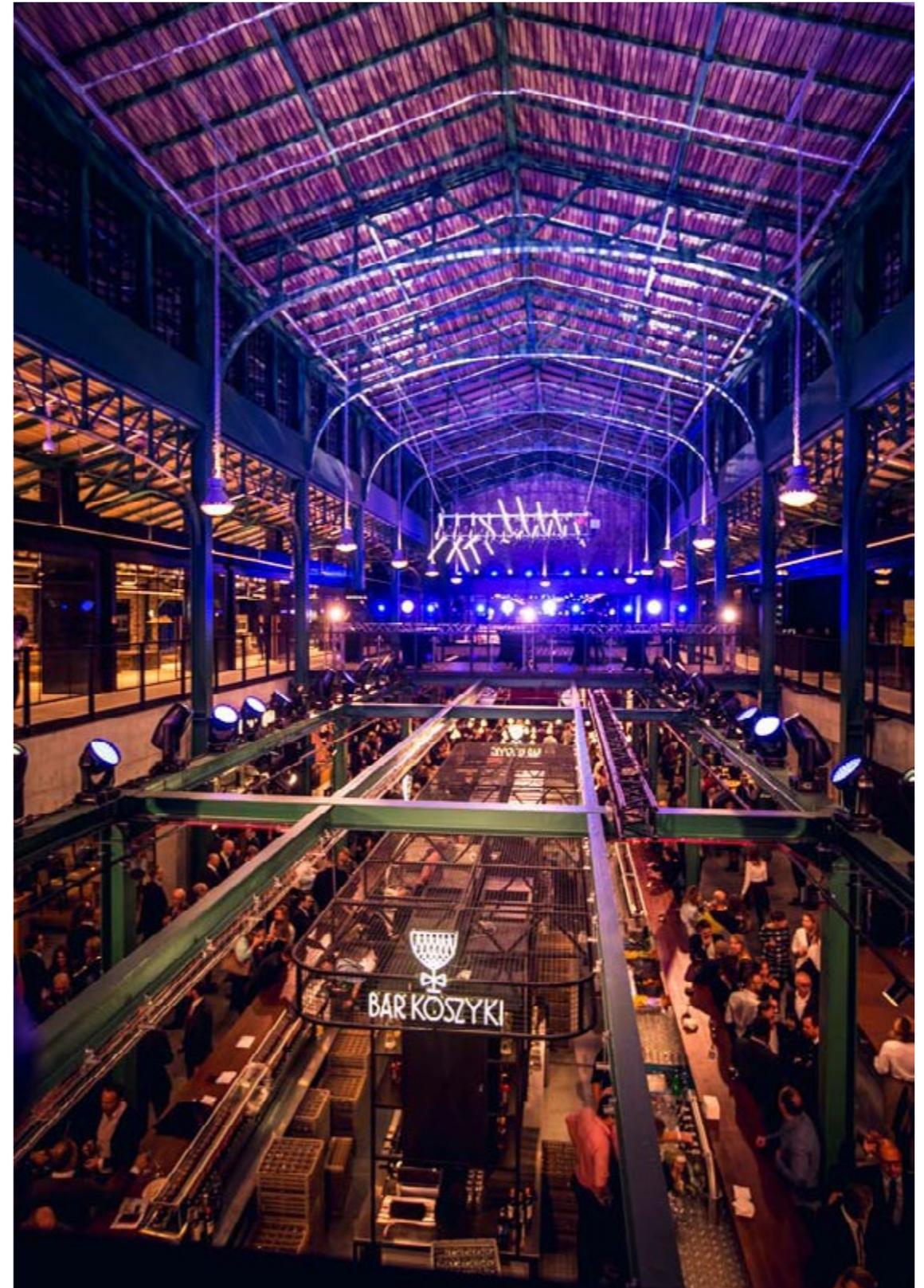
The fact is, however, that Hala Koszyki is the only spot in the city where you can find so many different places to eat under one roof. Italian, Polish or Thai, vegan or meaty, Hala Koszyki has it all. You can find several bars with both local and international beers.

Several cultural events like classical music concerts, art exhibitions and workshops are often organized here. [Find out more here.](#)

Hala Koszyki:

Every day: 8AM-1AM

Address: Marszałkowska 27/35





Pierogi



Michelin Restaurants

In Warsaw we have two restaurants awarded with a Michelin star: Amaro and Senses.

Amaro is “a new restaurant concept serving dishes using only superb Polish seasonal products ... creating real culinary masterpieces every day” while Senses defines itself as “honest and emotional about food... innovative and modern yet surprisingly familiar”.



The two Michelin restaurants are both committed to organic Polish products and to providing experiences rather than just food. For a dinner at Amaro, you will pay around 340 PLN (plus pairing), whereas at Sense you’ll pay between 700 and 1000 PLN (pairing included). A bit pricey for Polish standards but cheaper than other Michelin Restaurants in other European countries.

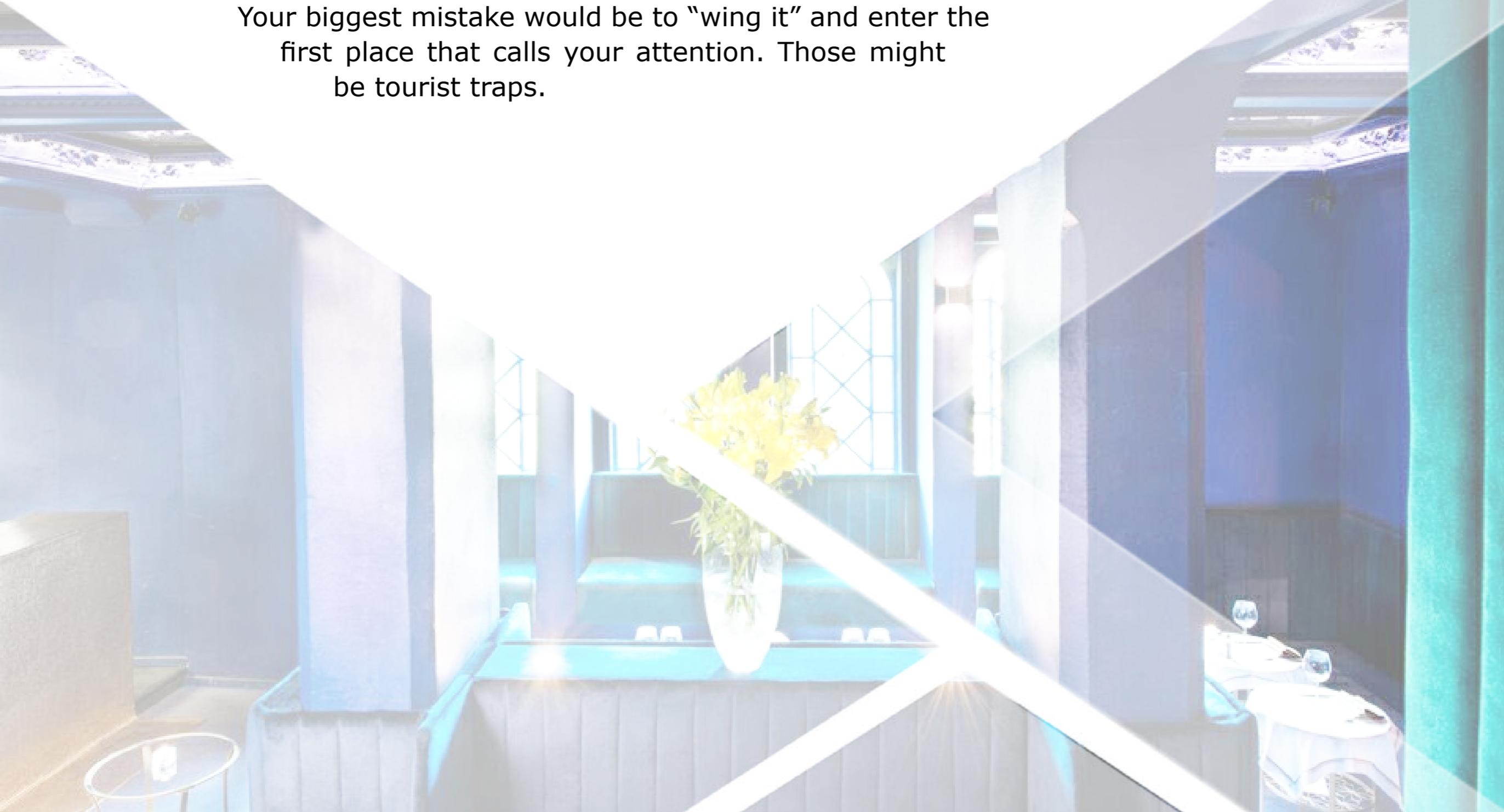
If you want to make sure to get a table at one of these restaurants you should book 3 to 6 months in advance.



RESTAURANTS

Warsaw is overrun by authentic international restaurants.

Your biggest mistake would be to “wing it” and enter the first place that calls your attention. Those might be tourist traps.



Best Polish Restaurants

Stary Dom

As the name suggests, this place looks like an old traditional house (“Stary Dom” means “Old House”). If you decide to pay this place a visit, you absolutely must try Polish Tatar, which will be prepared right in front of your eyes. Probably the best in Warsaw. Although the prices are slightly higher than average, the quality of the food, the service, and the atmosphere make up for it.



Stary Dom:

Every day: 12–11:30PM

Address: Puławska 104/106

Restauracja Delicja Polska

Thanks to the high ceiling, the elegant pink interior and the top location near the Old Town, this place is one of the best choices for travelers.

If you decide to go, you should try the roasted duck with apple and cranberry jam. A classic.



Restauracja Delicja Polska:

Every day: 12–11PM

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 64



Restauracja Stary Dom

Best International Restaurants

Best American Restaurant: Koko & Roy



Koko & Roy is a New York-inspired, Seasonal New American restaurant (and bar) focused on presenting contemporary American food while simultaneously celebrating local ingredients and flavors.

Address: Wilcza 43

Best Chinese Restaurant: Pełną Parą



Pełną Parą is a restaurant specializing in dim sum and traditional Chinese cuisine. Because of the bright modern interiors, this place doesn't look like the typical oriental restaurant. Just wait to taste the dumplings (10 dumplings 17 PLN).

Address: Sienna 76

Best Balkan Restaurant: Mały Belgrad



Mały Belgrad offers Balkan and Mediterranean specialties. At Mały Belgrad you can experience warm, almost family-like hospitality, typical of the Balkan countries.

Bring cash as when I visited they didn't accept cards.

Address: Belgradzka 4

Best French Restaurant: No Comment



No Comment is set inside one of the towers of the Poniatowski Bridge. If you are looking for authentic French cuisine and a unique, intimate location, this is your place. Make a reservation in advance to get a spot.

Address: Al. 3 Maja 16/18A

Best International Restaurants

Best Georgian Restaurant: U TATO



Abundant authentic dishes, Georgian hospitality, and fair prices make this place a must-visit if you are into hearty Georgian cuisine.

Address: Mokotowska 49

Best Hungarian Restaurant: U Madziara



In this small but cozy corner of Warsaw, you'll find a perfectly executed goulash and an excellent wine selection at reasonable prices.

Tip: give a try to the fish soup.

Address: Chłodna 2/18

Best Greek Restaurant: Taverna Patris



Located near the Poniatowski beach, this restaurant is not particularly appealing from the outside and the interior is unpretentious and rough (although reminiscent of the typical Greek island style). They do, however, serve excellent Greek food. And that's what matters most.

Address: Wał Miedzeszyński 407

Best Indian Restaurant: Bombaj Masala



Probably one of the most interesting interiors of all Indian restaurants in Warsaw and authentic Indian cuisine. The lunch menu is particularly good value for money.

Address: Aleja Jana Pawła II 23

Best International Restaurants

Best Italian Restaurant: Spaccanapoli



If you want to eat authentic Italian pizza – in line with Neapolitan tradition – go here. You won't regret it.

Address: Świętokrzyska 30

Best Jewish Restaurant: BeKeF



Great Israeli restaurant that serves crisp falafel and velvety hummus. The portions are large and relatively inexpensive.

Address: Hoża 40

Best Japanese Restaurant: UKI UKI



Homemade noodles and fantastic ramen. Probably the best you'll eat anywhere in Europe.

UKI UKI will bring you back to try more ramen varieties.

Address: Krucza 23/31

Best Spanish: Sol y Sombra Tapas Bar



The best tapas in Warsaw and a Spanish atmosphere that will remind you of your vacation in Spain (or your home country).

Address: Grzybowska 2/16

Best International Restaurants

Best Mexican Restaurant: La Sirena



Rough and alternative interior design, great cocktails and the best Mexican food in Warsaw. Too bad that the place is a bit too small and you can have trouble finding a place to sit.

Address: Piękna 54

Best Thai Restaurant: Naam Thai



The unique flavors of authentic Thai cuisine can be hard to replicate, but this place will be up to your expectations. It is quite popular and it is often crowded, a small price to pay for a blissful Thai dinner.

Address: Saska 16 (and Burakowska 16)



Tatar from Koko & Roy



DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

Where do the locals go to grab a drink?

You are about to find out some of the most popular places where locals regularly go for a drink.



In Warsaw you can get your liquor shots for 2/4 PLN (0.50/1 €) and the cheapest shots are obviously the vodka ones.

Here is where locals go.

Pawilony

“Pawilony”, a small conglomerate of 25 tiny pubs, is often the perfect place to start the evening or meet up for a beer. Located in the central Nowy Świat, Pawilony is the place where locals, expats, and tourists come together.

Every tiny pub is a little bit different from the next one and there is plenty of choice for all tastes.

The “Pawilony” hides in plain sight, but you can easily find it walking through the gates 22, 24 or 26 in Nowy Świat.

There is no reason to pass through these gates, unless you know what’s hiding behind!



Pawilony:

Hours: everyday 24/7

Address: Nowy Świat 22/28



Street art at Pawilony

Ulubiona

Ulubiona literally means “favorite”. Is Ulubiona our favorite shot bar? Probably not. Is it the one we end up most often? Definitely yes!

Reasons to go:

- Smallest shot bar in Warsaw which allows a quick shot (or two)
- Cheapest shot bar in Warsaw
- Authentic shot bar filled with locals

Ulubiona is conveniently located in Nowy Świat, not far from “[Pawilony](#)”, the Old Town, the center (Śródmieście) and the river. As a matter of fact, Ulubiona seems to be at the exact center of the Polish capital!

Get whatever-the-vodka-of-the-day is and leave. Don’t hang out inside forever, there are other thirsty souls passing by for their cut of cheap/quick liquor.



Ulubiona:

Hours:

Daily 4PM–5AM

Price: Shot of the day is 2 PLN

Address: Nowy Świat 27





*Pijalnia wódki i piwa:
Hours: 24/7
A shot costs 4.3 PLN
Address: Nowy Świat 19*



Pijalnia wódki i piwa

Over 15 different kinds of tiny vodka cocktails, served in shot glasses. Trying all of them won't break the bank and it will definitely get you more than tipsy.

You must try their homemade lemon vodka, "Chupa Chups" (Homemade lemon vodka with ginger Syrup and pepper, it really tastes like the coca cola Chupa Chups), or "Monte" (hazelnut vodka with milk) which tastes a little bit like nutella.

Be aware that these tiny cocktails - very tasty, colourful, and apparently harmful - hold quite a lot of alcohol inside.

Take your time between each shot and avoid being one of those tourists throwing up in front of the bar!

Czupito

Czupito is perhaps the craziest of all shot bars in Warsaw. Located in Mazowiecka street, this place is right in the middle of the most crowded party street in Warsaw.

Czupito boasts an incredible menu with over 100 different shots, all of which are priced at an honest 5 PLN.

Try “fire on the counter”, “Girl Scout” or “Boy Scout” each of which comes with a marshmallow that you can roast on a vodka-fueled fire on the counter.

Be aware of any shot marked with a flame, as they can be deadly spicy. For example, the “Fire in the hole” (top picture) is an infernal fire whirl of absinthe and tabasco. Lethal.

You have been warned!



Czupito:

Hours:

*Sunday- Thursday 4PM-
12:30AM*

Friday-Saturday 5PM-3AM

Price: 5 PLN

Address: Mazowiecka 9





Meta seta galareta

Meta seta galareta was designed to reflect the spirit of the communist era. Among locals it is already a cult spot.

It is a very unpretentious and easy going place, but you will need to order in Polish.

The interior design is bare and simple, typical for those times. The food and vodka are rigorously Polish, cheap and unpretentious (you can't find any kind of fancy cocktails here).

Order some traditional Polish snacks with your vodka shot, sit at a table and enjoy the laid back atmosphere.

You will spend 9 PLN for a shot of vodka and 10 PLN for a Polish snack (they serve very tasty Polish tatar).

Meta seta galareta:

Hours:

Sunday: 9AM-12AM

Other days: 9AM-6AM

Address: Foksal 21



Piw Paw Parkingowa

The Piw Paw, with its characteristic walls covered by thousands of beer cups, it's a true "beer heaven". Here you can find a rich collection of tap beers (around 60) and over 200 bottles.

At the time of opening, nobody would have thought a pub with such a vast selection of beer would be a good idea in the country of vodka. Eventually though, the "Piw Paw" proved to be a success.

The large number of beers can be intimidating, but you can always narrow it down by choosing the country of origin and the kind of beer you like.

Two more locations:

- PiwPaw BeerHeaven which has 95 tap beers (Address: Foksal 16)
- PiwPaw Mazowiecka (address: Mazowiecka 9), which has also a dance floor (and is right in the heart of party-Warsaw).



*PawPaw Parkingowa:
Address: Zurawia 32/34*





© S
G. ROLLZ

Beer
BLACK



SECRET BARS

During the prohibition era in the US, a speakeasy was the only place where you could get a drink.

Although speakeasies have lost their illegal nature, it is still SO intriguing and exciting to visit them. Do we have speakeasies in Warsaw? You bet!





Weles

What could possibly hide behind that black door in Nowogrodzka street?

A dark, old school basement bar that is nothing short of extraordinary (see the image in the next page)!

The spectacular crystal chandelier, the pleasant music, the fantastic cocktails and top class service will bring you back here again and again.

The bouncer at the door may not let you in without a reservation (or you are not dressed appropriately).

Weles:

Hours:

Sunday 7PM-12AM

Monday Closed

Tuesday - Friday 7PM-2AM

***Address:** Nowogrodzka 11*

***Reservations:** +48 602 773 997*



Bar "Weles"

6 cocktails

6 Cocktail is one of the first speakeasy-style bars to appear on the map of Warsaw. Its exclusive vibe, excellent cocktails, and laid-back atmosphere make it a really special place to visit.

It is quite difficult to find, as it is part of a historical tenement house in the center of Warsaw (in fact, it used to be the owner's family home!).

Call the "secret" number and the owner will tell you what to do in order to find it.

6 cocktails:

Hours:

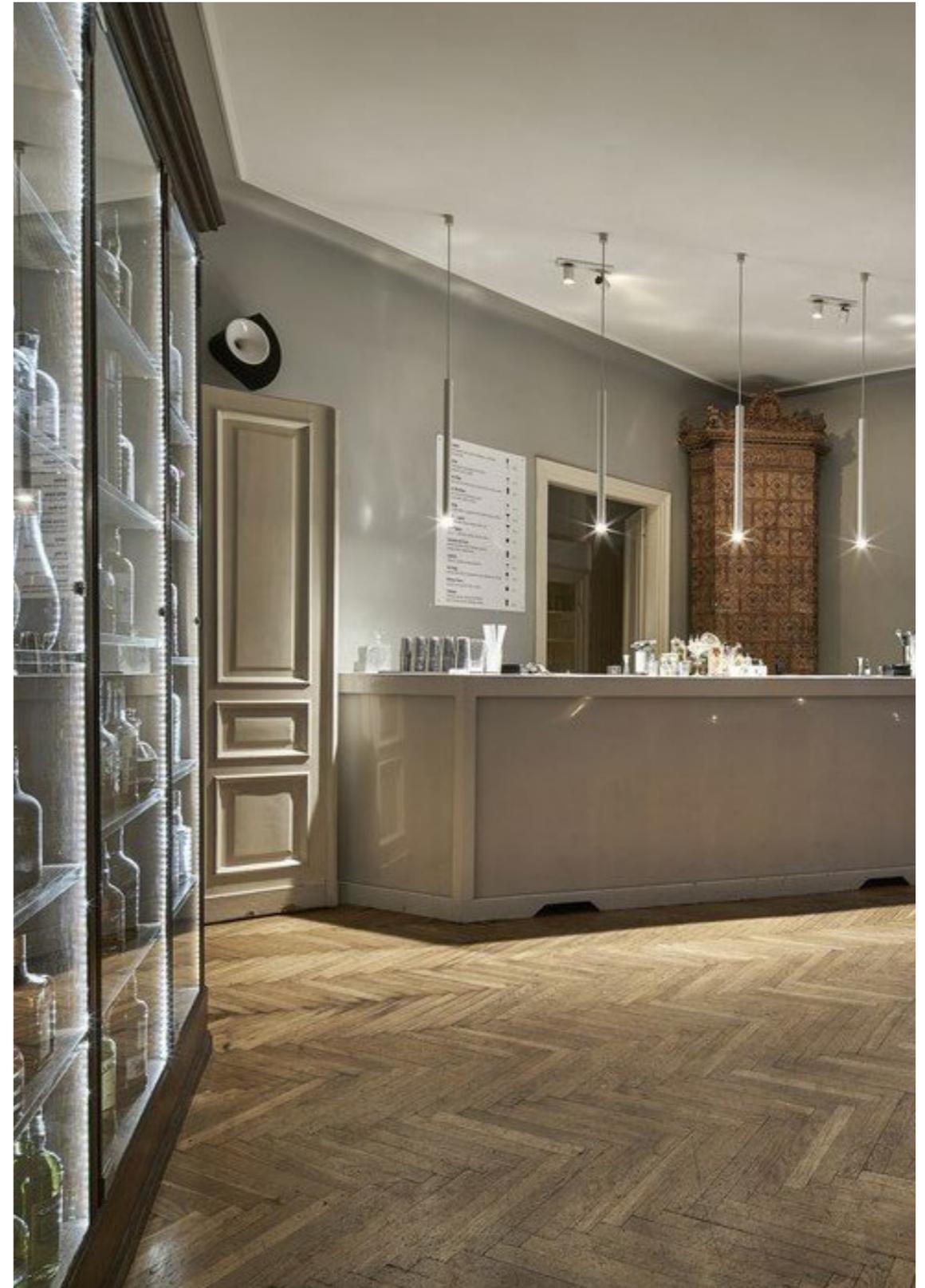
Sunday- Monday-Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 7PM-1AM

Thursday - Saturday 7PM-2AM

Reservations: +48 606 696 915 (*secret number*)

Address: Mokotowska 57





6 Cocktails



Charlie

To enter “Charlie” you have to go through the gate of a tenement house, then up the stairs to the first floor.

You will find several rooms, but the heart of the place is where the cocktail bar is.

Enjoy custom made cocktails, signature cocktails as well as world classics. Cocktails are prepared on quality alcohols by top bartenders.

Charlie:

Hours:

Sunday - Monday Closed

Tuesday - Thursday 7PM–2AM

Friday - Saturday 7PM–3AM

Address: Mokotowska 39

Phone: 664 066 004





Charlie



NIGHTLIFE

Plenty of bars and clubs across Warsaw.

You won't have problems finding a great spot to spend the night.



Here is everything you need to know about the best nightlife in Warsaw, whatever your preferred music style is.

Keep this guide at hand because with so many nice places you really don't want to spend your night in a deserted pub.

Start your night in one of the drinking spots mentioned earlier in this guide, when you feel ready to bring the party to the next level [hop on an UBER](#) (very cheap in Warsaw) and go to one of these clubs.

Bars along the Vistula in summer



Hocki Klocki, Cud nad Wisłą, Pomost 511, Babie Lato, Grunt i Woda are just some of the many clubs on the Vistula. It would be kind of pointless to describe each one of these Vistula clubs. Just walk down the river and stop where the music calls you!

Some of these clubs may close in 2019 due to new noise regulations. This is not confirmed yet.



Level 27 (mainstream dance music)



The views of the city from Level 27 are probably the most breathtaking in Warsaw. Go to this club in summer, when the terraces are open and you can enjoy the mesmerizing view of the Varsovian skyline.

Besides that, the prices are quite high, the music is mainstream dance music, and the dress code is smart casual.

The View (mainstream dance music)



In the same category of Level 27. The views of the city are breathtaking. Better to go to this club in summer, when the terraces are open and you can enjoy the mesmerizing view of the Varsovian skyline.

The music is mainstream dance music, and the dress code is smart casual.



Cud nad Wisłą, bar along the Vistula River

Smolna (Techno/Electronic)



The best club for techno and electronic music in Warsaw, just a few meters from pawilony and other popular drinking spots. Underground. No-picture policy. Good sound system. A dark maze with cool lighting effects.

They have a relaxed dress code, unless you are too elegant. In such case they might not let you in.

Bar Studio



Bar Studio always has nice party ideas on the weekend. A good example are the silent disco nights, when you can dance outside the club with the headphones on.

Priceless!

There is something truly magical about hanging out under the shadow of our beloved socialist beast.

Niebo (contemporary)



Large windows, a tall ceiling, and nice interior. Although the music might not be the greatest every time you go, this club is just a few meters away from [Pawilony](#) and Nowy Swiat. Niebo is the perfect choice for an unpretentious party on a random night.

Also, check out the Warsaw Vintage Market, organized once a month on Sundays by [vintagestory.pl](#)

Dzik (contemporary/jazz)



Dzik is located in a villa from the 1920s. It has a slightly retro/decadent vibe, which makes it quite cool. Here you'll find nice contemporary music, but also jazz themed evenings.

Worth noting are its big balcony and large garden, perfect to hang out outside during warm summer nights.

Luzztro (Techno, After-party)



Small, dark and shady - this place is not for everybody.

But if you are looking for a techno after party past 4am, this is the place to go.

Potok (Rock)



Good rock music and a powerful sound system, two smoking rooms, a concert hall, foosball, no ventilation.

Everything you need in a proper rock pub.

12on14 Jazz Club (Jazz)



The best jazz club in Warsaw with a good selection of food and drinks.

Perfect place for a chilled evening with good music.

The repertoire at 12on14 Jazz Club is extremely rich. Every month you can find concerts of outstanding Polish and international musicians.

Hydrozagadka (rock)



A stuffy, squatty, underground place with affordable beer, great music and non-mainstream concerts.

Remember to check out their Facebook page for the latest updates. More often than not, attending an event on Facebook will grant you a free entrance.

Chmury (alternative independent labels)



Random objects like a half mannequin, lights and plants hanging from the ceiling, or the picture of Laura Palmer on the wall give this place its unique charisma and an alternative vibe.

But more importantly, Chmury is also one of the best places in the city to listen to alternative independent labels and enjoy a wide variety of artisanal beers.

Skład Butelek



This place is even more underground than the other two (Chmury, Hydrozagadka which are located right next).

The decor is shabby, grungy, almost squatty, and that's how it should be.

Highly unpretentious, this place is often filled with cool people, great music, and modestly priced beers.

Pogłos



Dodgy, industrial and rough.

That's what an underground music club should be look like!

A favourite to many.



Chmury, a bar in the 11 Listopada courtyard



PANORAMIC VIEWS

Make sure you visit at least one of these spots at sunset.

Pictures from these viewpoints can be the best souvenir you'll ever bring home.





Terrace of Palace of Culture and Science:

Hours: 10AM-8PM. In Summer, from Friday to Saturday (8PM - 11:30PM)

Price: 20 PLN

Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance and skip the line

Address: Plac Defilad 1

The Palace of Culture and Science

The Palace of Culture and Science was a “gift” from Stalin to the people of Poland. It took about 9000 workers and three years to build.

Varsovians have mixed feelings about this building (it is sometimes considered a symbol of Soviet domination) but the Warsaw Skyline wouldn't be the same without it.

Today, you can access the Palace's terrace on the 30th floor and enjoy a mesmerizing 360° view of Warsaw.

Most tourists visit the Palace for its unique view, but inside the Palace of Culture you can also find a cinema, four theaters (Studio, Dramatyczny, Lalka and 6. piętro), three museums (Museum of Evolution, Museum of Technology and a wonderful Dollhouse museum), offices, bookshops, a large swimming pool, a coffee house (Cafe Kulturalna) and Bar Studio (club).

More info about the Palace of Culture and Science.





View from the Palace of Culture viewing terrace

Marriott Sky Panorama Bar

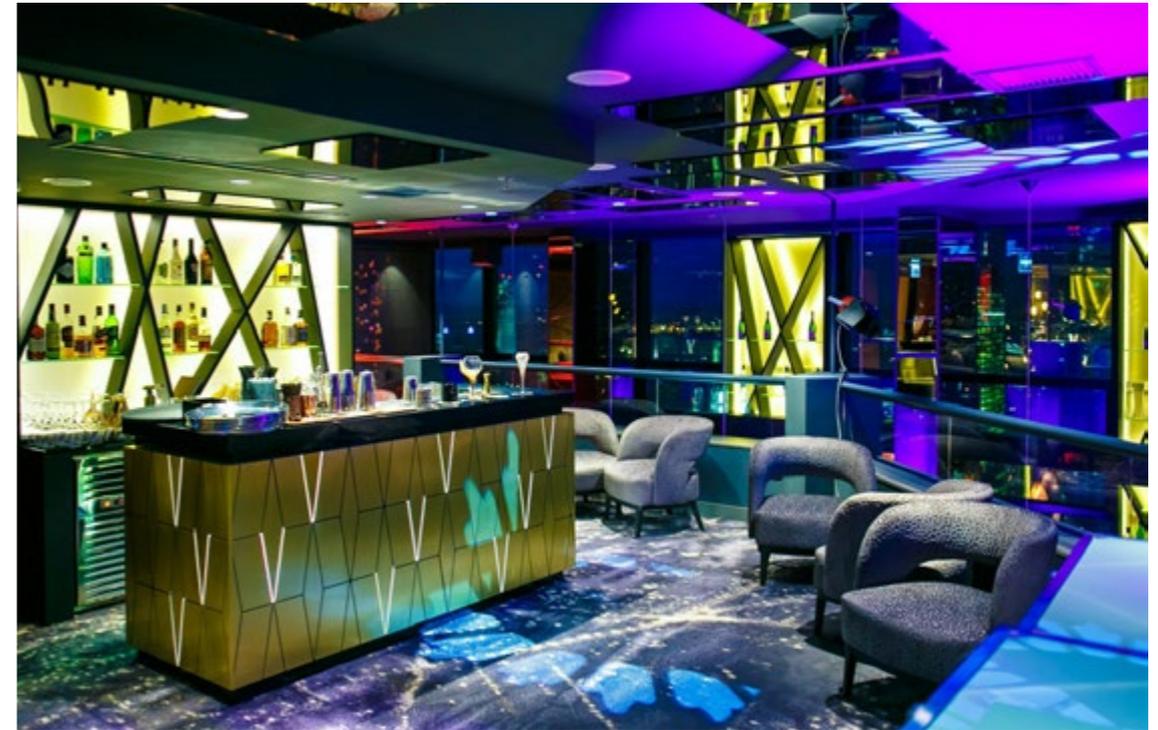
With its 170 meters, the Warsaw Marriott Hotel is one of the tallest buildings in Warsaw and contributes to making Warsaw's skyline so unique.

But, if you want to enjoy the best view in Warsaw you won't see the Marriott hotel because... well, because you will be at the Marriott Sky Panorama Bar (at the 43rd floor). The view from here is my favorite because it includes the Palace of Culture. Since you are here you can also enjoy great cocktails, but be aware that the prices are high for Polish standards.

[Find more info about this panoramic bar here.](#)

The Tower of St. Anna church

The tower of St. Anna, sometimes called "The Old Town Observation Terrace", is the best spot to enjoy a nice view over the Old Town.

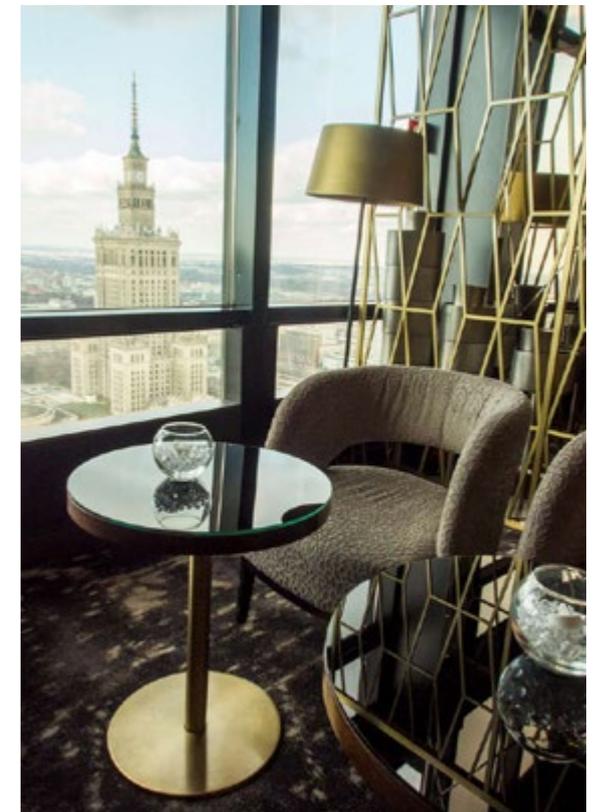


Panorama Sky Bar:

Hours:

Daily 6PM-2AM

Address: al. Jerozolimskie 65/79





St. Anna tower:

Price: 6 PLN

Opening times: 10AM - 9PM,
Saturday – Sunday 11AM -
10PM

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieś-
cie 68



To find it, go to the Castle Square and look for a tower with written "Taras widokowy" on top.

The entrance fee is about 5 PLN, totally worthy.

Check out the view in this [google photosphere](#).

The Szcześliwicka Hill

Rising to 152 meters, the artificial Szcześliwicka Hill was created as a dump for the rubble from Warsaw's destruction during WWII. Today the rubble is hidden by grass and the hill hosts one of the best parks in the city.

The main attraction of the hill is its skiing slope, where you can ski all year around also in the absence of snow. Thanks to its height and distance from the center it also offers one of the best views of Warsaw.

[Find out more about the Szcześliwicka Hill.](#)



The Szczęśliwica Hill:

Hours:

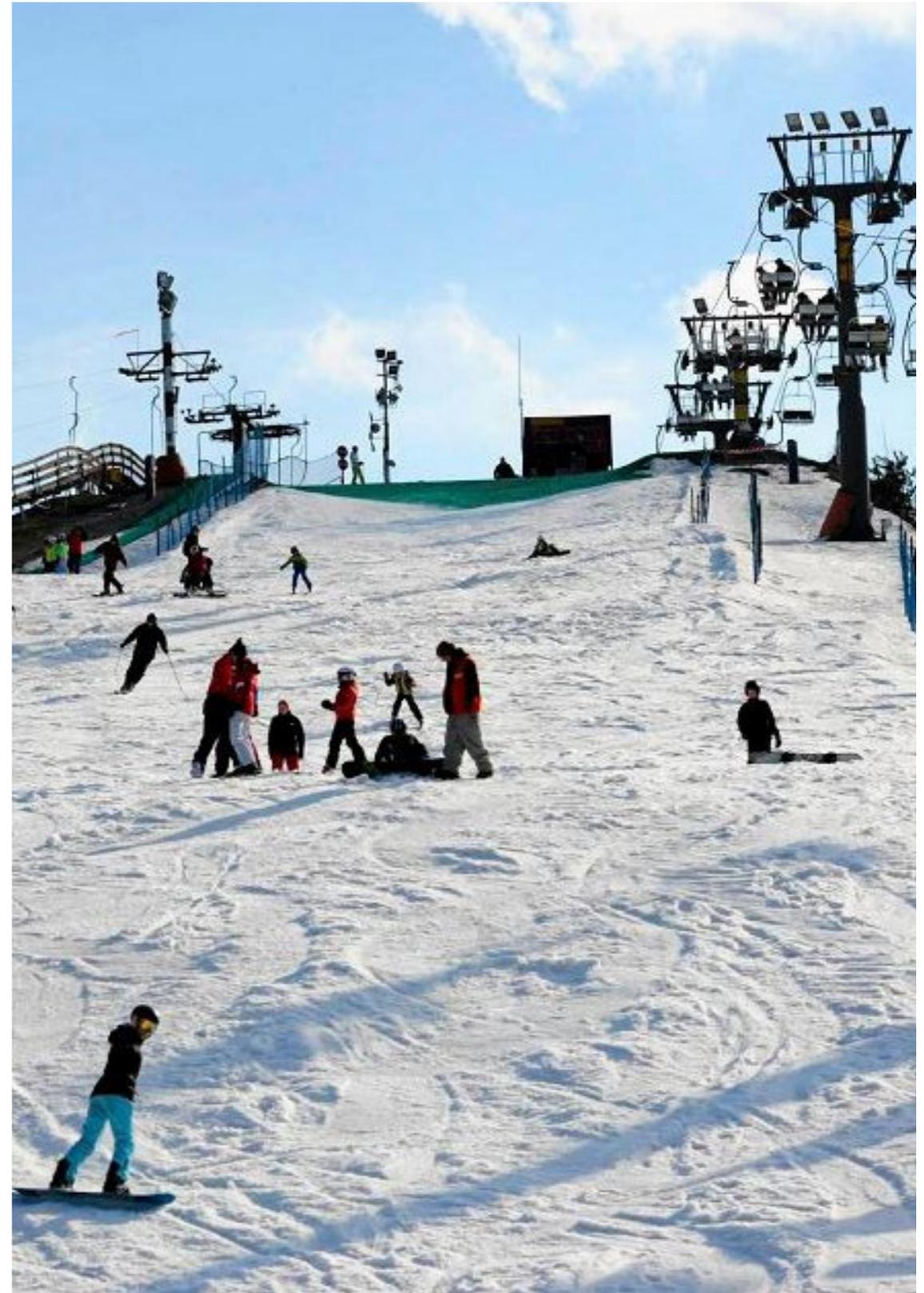
Monday - Friday

11AM-9PM

Saturday - Sunday

10AM-8PM

Address: Szczęśliwica



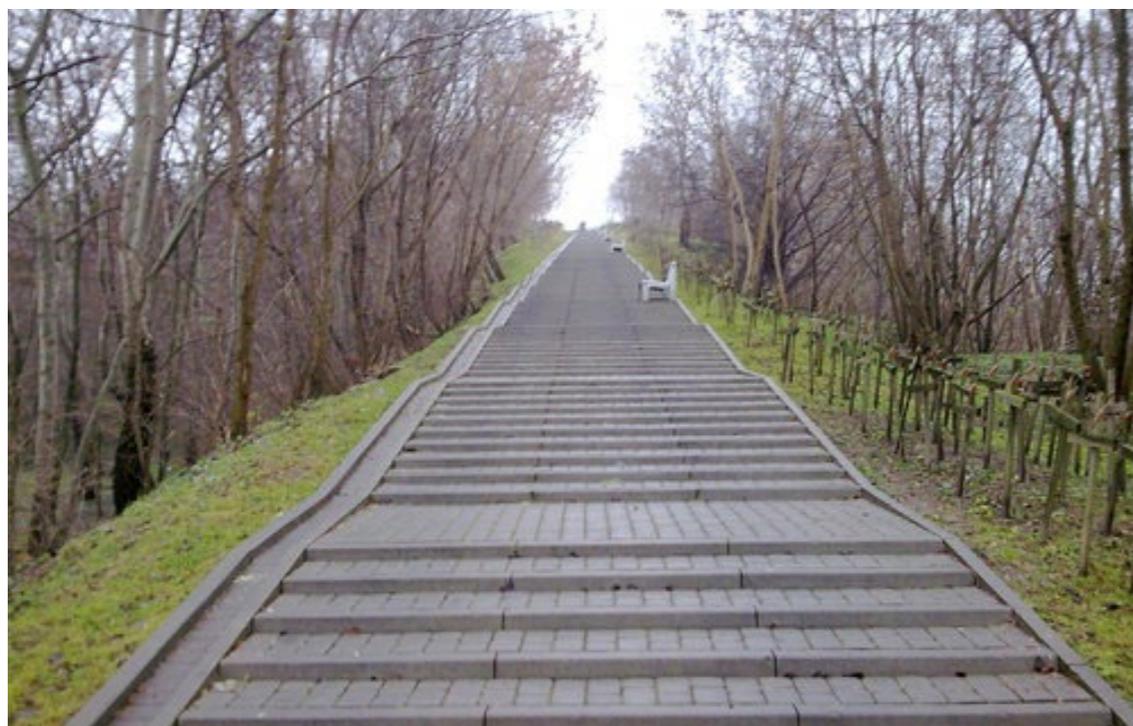


The Warsaw Uprising Mound:

Price: *FREE*

Opening times: *Open 24 hours*

Address: *Park Akcji "Burza"*



The Warsaw Uprising Mound

Similarly to Szcześliwicka, this is another artificial hill made of the debris of destroyed Warsaw.

It's a great view of the city (even though a little bit too far away) but is also an important site that commemorates the Warsaw uprising.

After climbing 400 steps you'll get to the "Kotwica" monument (anchor in English), the symbol of the fight against Nazi Germany.

Every 1st of August, the anniversary of the beginning of the [Warsaw Uprising](#), a fire is lit and burns for 63 days (the exact number of days of the Uprising).

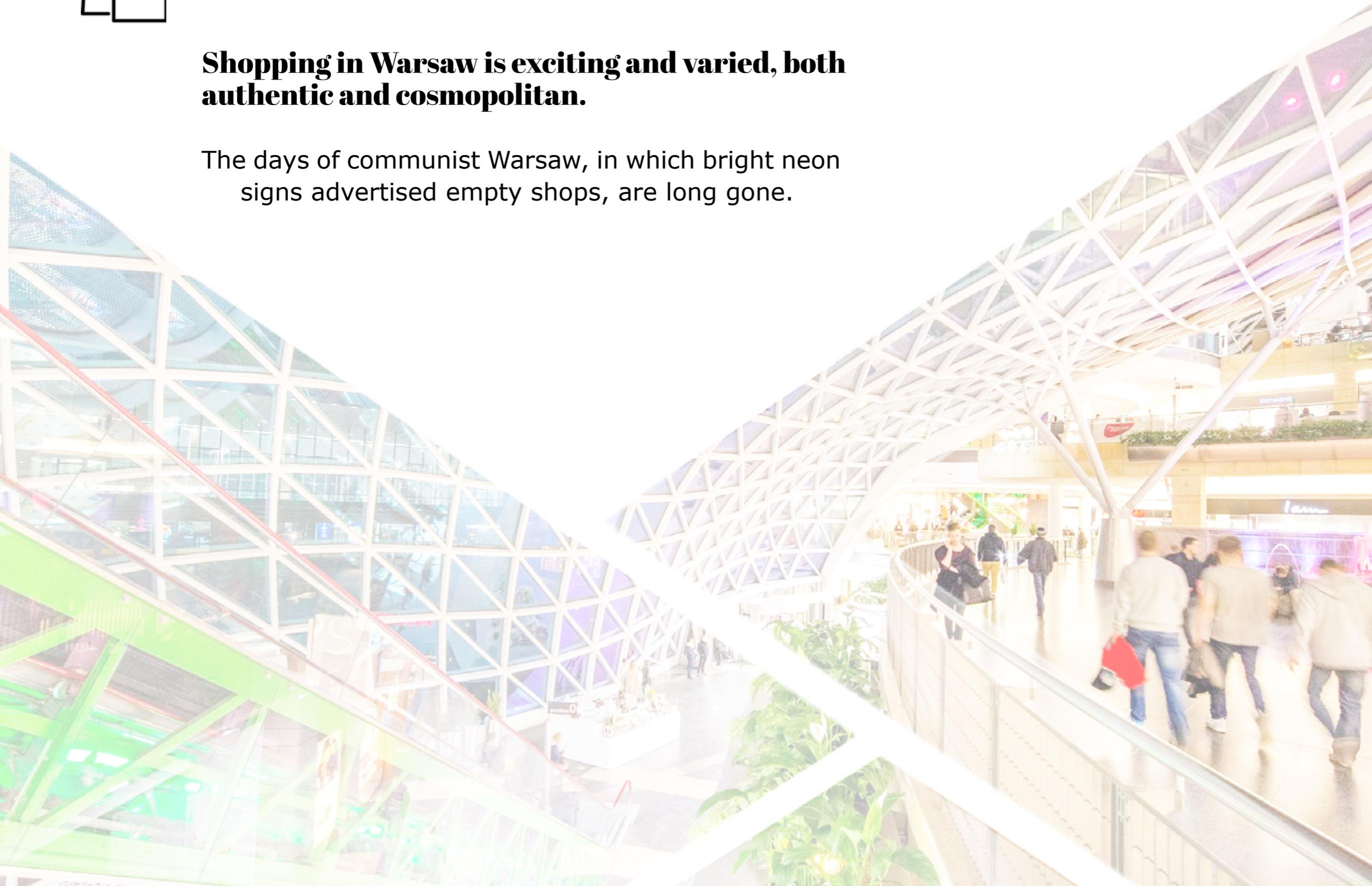
You can find this hill in the Mokotow District (Bartycka Street).



S H O P P I N G

Shopping in Warsaw is exciting and varied, both authentic and cosmopolitan.

The days of communist Warsaw, in which bright neon signs advertised empty shops, are long gone.



Shopping in Warsaw

Whether you prefer strolling inside luxurious shopping malls, or exploring flea markets in search of the rarest vintage find, Warsaw has it all.

Local designers' stores, often packed with the cutest Warsaw inspired designs, are the best places if you are looking for souvenirs. Flea markets are as scrappy as they can be, but they hide rare and unexpected Slavic treasures.

If you are looking for some quirky gifts, whether for yourself or for a friend, you should avoid getting the classical souvenirs (like magnets or vodka shot glasses in the Old Town). Head to these places instead.

I've listed some of the best places to shop below. Some of them might be a bit hard to find, but you will be pleasantly rewarded.



Reset (interior and nice home objects)



If you want something truly unique, something that won't be abandoned in some hidden corner of your house but rather displayed proudly in your living room, go to this Warsaw-inspired designer store.

Address: Puławska 48

Cepelia (traditional objects)



Traditional handmade Polish folklore objects.

If you are into this kind of objects this is probably the best place to shop for it.

Address: Marszałkowska 99/101 (or Chmielna 8)

Pan tu nie stał (Polish clothing and accessories)



Mainly unique Polish inspired clothing and accessories from local designers.

“Pan tu nie stał” which translates to “Sir, you weren't standing here”, refers to the communist times when lining up in front of any store was a daily practise.

Address: Koszykowa 34/50

Bazar Na Kole (flea market)



If you consider yourself a treasure hunter, or if you like to collect little vintage objects from every city you visit, you shouldn't miss this flea market.

It's guaranteed to find some little gem here, like unique old objects or vintage furniture..

Obozowa 99

Olimpia (flea market)



Mainly local food and regional products but you can also find some vintage furniture, clothing, and accessories.

The typical Sunday local market.

Górczewska 56/60

(Open only on Sundays)

As You Like It (bookshop)



A cozy bookshop with designers books and photography books, among others.

Address: Emilii Plater 4

Super Salon (bookshop)



Similar collection of books to “As you like it” but more modern looking.

Address: Chmielna 10

Art bookstore at the Ujazdowski Castle



This Art Bookshop is packed with books in English and Polish and also some cute souvenirs (like the crunchable map of Warsaw).

Address: Jazdów 2

Antykwariat Grochowski



A very nice second-hand bookstore, where time seems to have stopped a while ago.

Antykwariat Grochowski is split into two separate shops (one next to the other): one of them is full of travel books and pieces of vinyl.

Address: Ludwika Kickiego 12



SEASONAL WARSAW

Warsaw changes drastically from season to season.

In winter the Old Town is the prettiest, thanks to the invasion of Christmas lights, but as soon as the temperature rises the Vistula shores are the place to be.



Winter: the Christmas Light Festival

Warsaw's temperatures in December and January are rigid, but the spirits are warm. In the coldest months of the year, the Warsaw Old Town dresses up with its prettiest clothes and transforms itself into a glowing wonderland full of light creations, ice skating rinks, and Christmas markets.

This amazing light festival displays more than 1300 artistic installations and covers over 20 km across the city. It is the biggest light festival in Poland and one of the biggest in Europe.

In 2013, French newspaper "Le Figaro" considered Warsaw to be "among the ten most beautifully decorated cities in the world". If they had come now, Warsaw would have definitely made the top of their list!

Come in winter if you want to see Warsaw at its prettiest!

[Find more winter activities here.](#)





Summer: The Vistula River

As soon as the temperature rises, the Vistula shores get out of their winter lethargy and explode with life.

Parties, bars, walking routes, bike paths, sandy beaches, wildlife and water sports, the Vistula river has so much to offer!

All you need to know is that there are two sides of the river, one wild-and-untamed on the east bank (Praga side) where you can find several sandy beaches, and the tamed-and-cemented on the west bank (Centrum side), where you find great parties and floating bars.

On Praga side: If you want to BBQ or just chill around a bonfire, get your spot in the wide sandy beaches next to Poniatowski bridge (picture below). If you are interested in wildlife, you'll be surprised to know that the Vistula shore hosts more than 40 different species of animals. Some year ago a moose was spotted swimming in the river!



The Poniatówka Beach

On center side: I suggest you go to Pomost 511 or Cud nad Wisłą (two cool bars just next to each other on the west bank of the river) and walk your way down the river. Varsovians often bring their own booze, but you can also get cold beer and cocktails for 10 PLN to 20 PLN.

The Multimedia Fountain Park is one more thing to check out along the Vistula. This is a great show which uses water, light, and sound to provide an incredible experience which attracts thousands of people. You can see the performance on Fridays & Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. from May to August and at 9 p.m. in September.

More info about the [Multimedia Fountain Park here](#).





The Poniatówka Beach, under the Poniatowski Bridge, Warsaw

Autumn: Warsaw Film Festival and FREE access to Museums

If you are a movie lover or a culture enthusiast, autumn might be the best time for you to come.

In October you can go to the Warsaw Film Festival, a major international film event where the organizers strive to “show a film before it wins an Oscar” and are proud of “not chasing filmmakers who are already famous”.

Beside the Warsaw Film Festival, autumn is a good time to visit because all the former royal residences are free to visit and have special programs in place in November.

This means that major landmarks like the Royal Castle, the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów, and all the buildings in the Royal Łazienki Museum are free of charge.





Chopin Concert in Łazienki Park

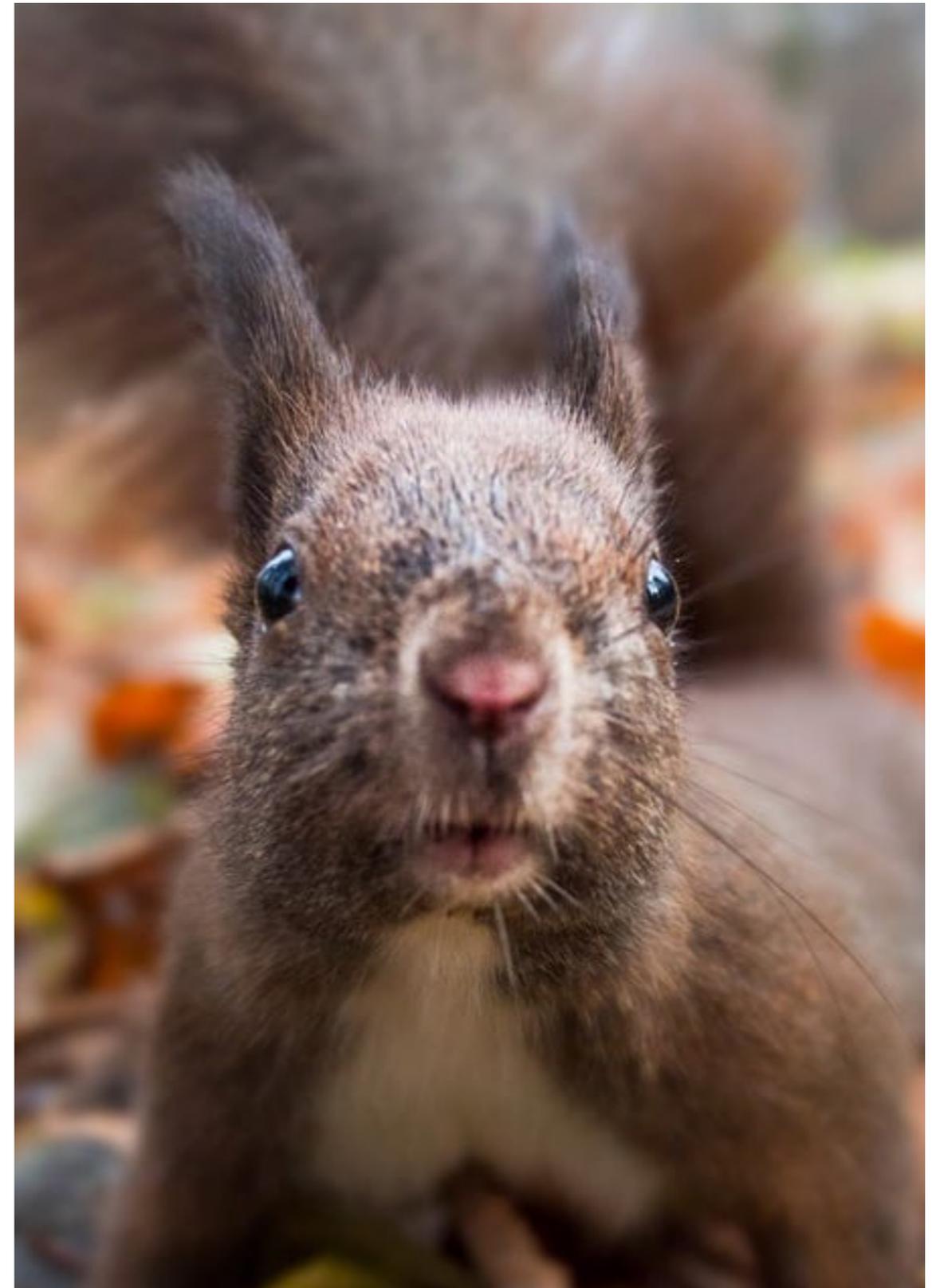
Spring (and summer): The free Chopin concert in Łazienki Park

Łazienki Park, the largest public park in Warsaw, is a great place to visit all year around (but probably at its best in spring).

Once inside Łazienki Park, you will easily forget you are in the center of one of Europe's biggest cities. This massive park, covering about 76 hectares, is also home to a variety of buildings worth visiting, like the Palace on the Isle and the Myślewicki Palace (which are also interesting museums).

In Łazienki park you can find the monument to Chopin, who was known for seeking inspiration in the sounds of nature. Indeed, the vibrant flowers, the red furred squirrels and the reflection of the buildings in the lake are the perfect muse for any artist.

Bring your own food and a blanket. Sit on the grass and enjoy a Chopin concert on Sundays (at 12AM and 4PM).



Get there early to secure a good spot.

The Chopin concerts usually start around the 15th of May and last until the 25th of September.

[Check if the cyclical concerts have already started here.](#)

Note:

The access to the park is free all year around whereas each of the buildings within the complex has its own price.

Entrance to ALL buildings is FREE on Thursday (but better to go in the morning if you can, as afternoons get busy). [The Łazienki Complex is included in the Warsaw Pass.](#)

Plan three to four hours to visit. In summer and spring, I would recommend a longer stay, with a lunch break for the Chopin concert.





O U T D O O R

Experience Warsaw by bike or... by kayak.

In spring or summer, you should definitely rent a Veturilo bike. If you want, you can even combine your bike ride with a short kajak trip.





Rent a “Veturilo” Public Bike

Veturilo means “vehicle” in Esperanto (Esperanto is a language invented by Polish-Jewish ophthalmologist L. Ł. Zamenhof).

Renting a Veturilo bike is very cheap (it’s actually FREE for the first 20 minutes) and you can find the bikes all over the city, although only in spring and summer.



[This map is great](#) because you can see the availability of the bikes before you get there. [I also created my own map with google’s “my maps”](#), so that you can use it in Google maps and get directions to the nearest station (you can’t do that with the official maps).

A great bike path is the “[Sunny Route](#)”, which runs along the right bank of the Vistula River. It’s quite unique because, although it is in the middle of the city, you will still be able to enjoy 8 km of wild forest and beaches.

You can access the bike path from the “Most

Poniatowskiego” (Poniatowskiego Bridge), at Rondo Waszyngtona (Waszyngton Roundabout). [I made a map, check it here.](#)

Another route, perhaps a bit more demanding, is the “Vistula route”, which runs for 34 km from Młociny to Powsin. The route crosses the Młociński Forest, the Łazienki Park and Wilanów.

Another bicycle ride to consider is the Uprising Mass (Masa Powstańcza), a yearly bicycle ride organized in tribute to the soldiers of the Warsaw Uprising. This route runs along locations associated with the Uprising. The ride takes place in August.

We are offering wonderful [bike tours in Warsaw](#). Check it out [here](#).

If you want to be more independent, I’m sure that you will make great use of this [Warsaw bike map](#).





Kayak on the Vistula river

Jump in a kayak and tame one of Europe's coolest rivers!

You can get a kayak in one of three locations:

- [Pomost 511](#) (left bank of the Vistula)
- [Plaża Poniatówka](#) (right bank of the Vistula)
- [Plaża Rusałka przy przystani AQUATICA](#) (right bank of the Vistula).



If you want you can combine the kayaking experience with the Veturilo bikes. This is called the "Kayak and Bike loop":

You get the kayak on one bank of the river, leave it on the other bank, get a Veturilo bike (free for the first 20 minutes) and cross the river through Świętokrzyski bridge (nice and safe bike path on both sides of the bridge).



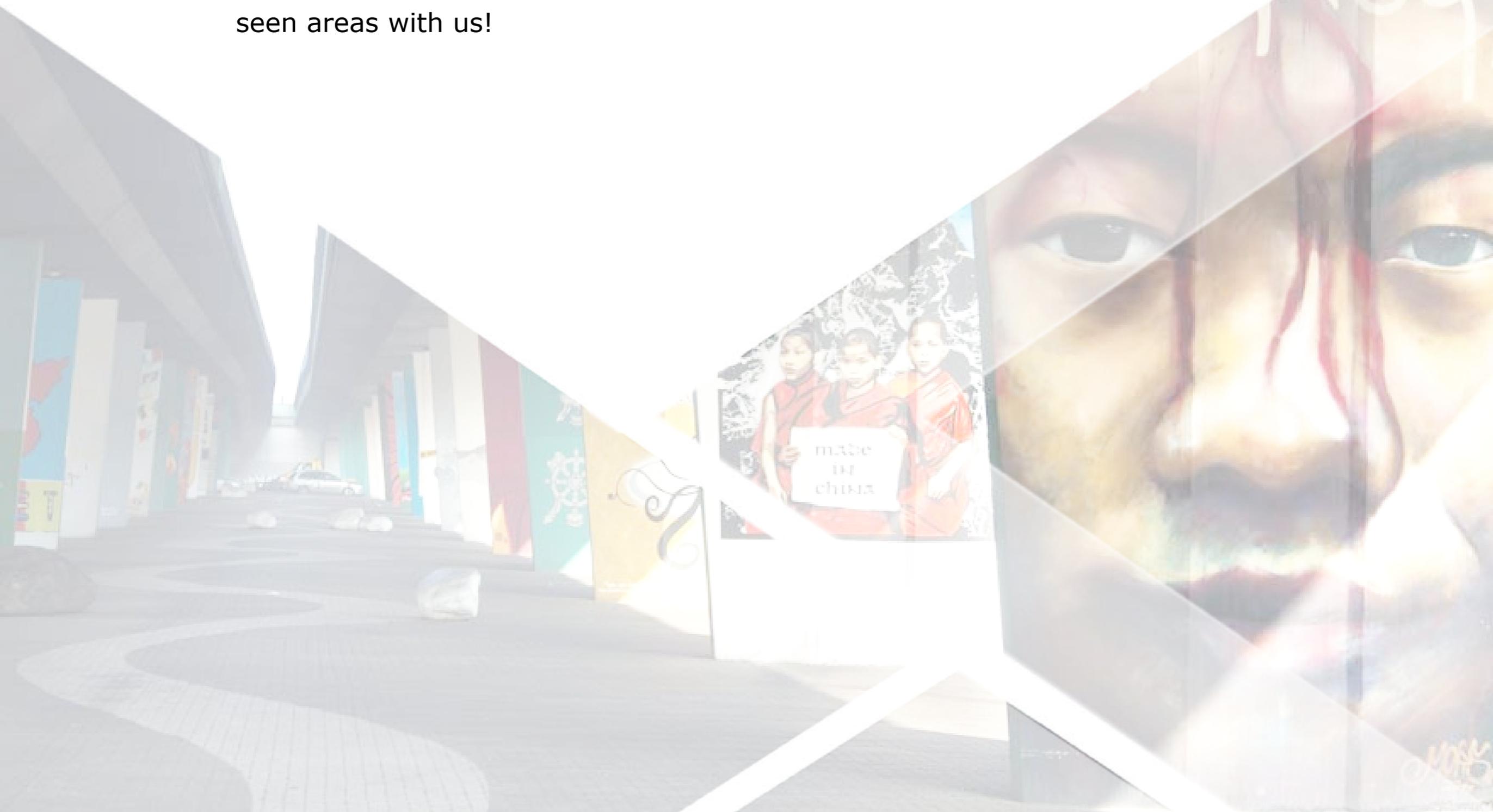
[Find out more about it here](#) (website is in Polish), they also organize extended Kayak trips (even a few days trips).



ALTERNATIVE

Fed up with the most popular spots?

Leave the Old Town behind and venture in Warsaw's less seen areas with us!





Explore the Praga District

Sure, most of the museums, attractions, and the Old Town are on the west bank of the Vistula river. Yet, you should not neglect the east bank of the river! The river bank on this side is rough, wild and authentic, adjectives that could as well describe the up-and-coming Praga District.

Praga was for decades an off-limit area, for both Varsovians and tourists. The crime rate, unemployment and living conditions of this neighborhood were the worst in the city.

Today, the [Praga district](#) is undergoing a revival. It is safe, cool and dynamic.

There is plenty to discover. Here you will find amazing street art from both international and Polish artists, 40 years old "mural-ads" from communist times, wrecks of buildings riddled by bullets from WWII, underground bars, and alternative museums.

[Read more about the Praga district here.](#)



A courtyard in the Praga district





ROK 1573
WE WSI KAMIEN
WYBRANO NA KRÓLA
HENRYKA WALEZEGO

Szklarnia

39

Graffiti in the Praga district

The Neon Museum

A unique little gem in Warsaw's [Praga district](#), the Neon Museum is a private initiative of photographer Ilona Karwińska. This museum has the biggest collection of neons in Europe and it is the only one of its kind in Poland.

When entering the Neon Museum, you will be presented with an illuminating timeline of Warsaw's post-war past. What role could a neon play in communist Warsaw? How did neons influence the way Varsovians perceived their city? And how could such an eccentric and colorful medium be used in dull communist Poland? You will find the answers to all of these questions at the museum.

The visit will be brief – it won't take more than 30 minutes – but stimulating. If you want to learn more about Polish post-war history, or if you love typography, neons or design, visiting this museum is an absolute must.





20 m

HERMES

BANK

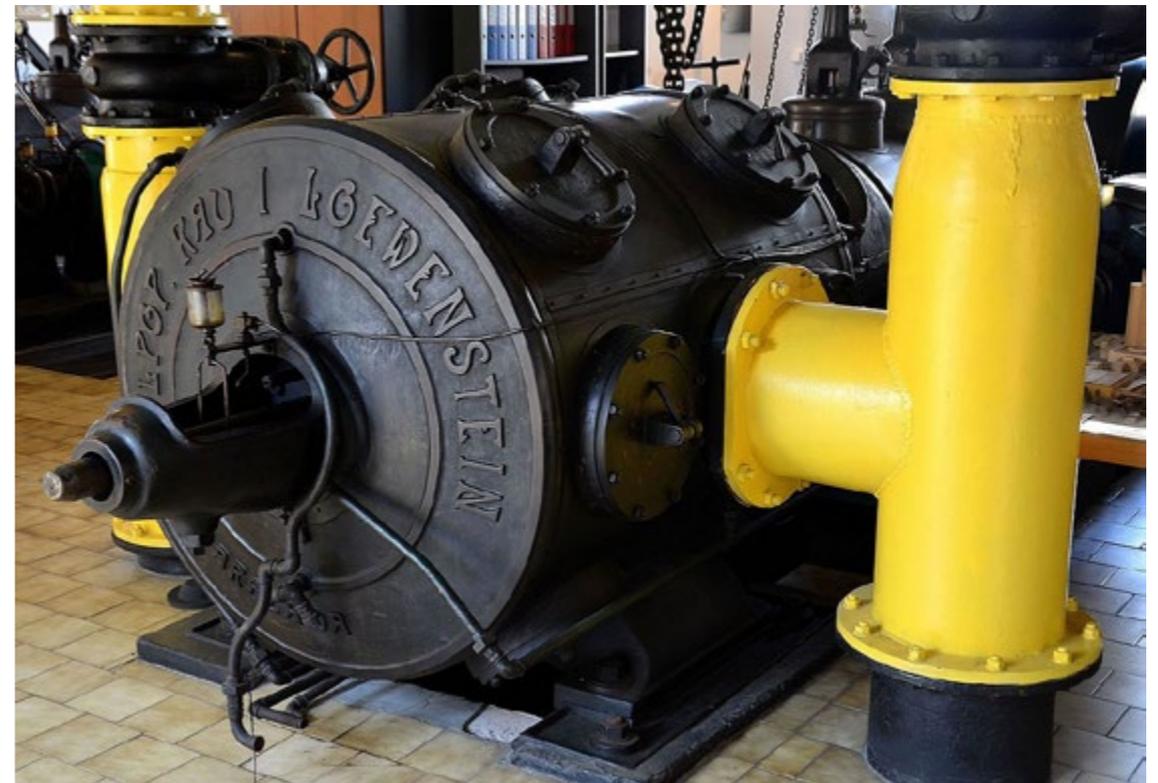
The Gas Work Museum & “Colosseum”

In the late 19th century, the Gas Work Museum was an avant-garde complex providing gas and lighting to Warsaw’s streets. Today, it’s a very interesting (and FREE) specialty museum, with a great collection of original machinery, street lamps and gas cookers from over a century ago, all in mint condition.

After visiting the museum, you should also have a look at the old “colosseum”, which used to be the old gas storage tank.

These colossal cylindrical buildings are not part of the museum and it’s not allowed to enter inside (some people managed to sneak in but you could get in trouble). Due to their romantic decadent look, however, they still deserve a picture ([take it from here](#)).

I really hope the owners will make good use of those amazing buildings and turn them into official Warsaw sights.



The Tibetan Gallery in Wola

The Tibetan Gallery is an “open-air street art gallery” showing Tibetan culture, Tibetan history and the atrocities taking place today in Tibet.

This gallery is the first of its kind in the world.

The idea of creating the gallery came after the Council of Warsaw awarded Dalai Lama with honorary citizenship.

You can find the gallery in Wola district (link to [Google Maps](#)).

Go to their website if you want to know more: [Tibetan Gallery](#).





The Keret house

The Keret House is the narrowest house in the world, with 152 cm at its widest point and 92 at its narrowest point.

This world-record-house was initially conceived as an art piece itself, an example of “impossible architecture”, which could fit in the “non-productive” cracks of Warsaw’s chaotic urban landscape.

The house might not be the best place for a claustrophobic person, but it’s actually a perfect place to live in and it’s regularly rented to young creative individuals (mostly writers). For this reason, the house is rarely open to the public.

Check the official [Keret House Website](#) to find out the exact dates.

The Keret House can be difficult to find, as it’s way narrower than you might imagine!

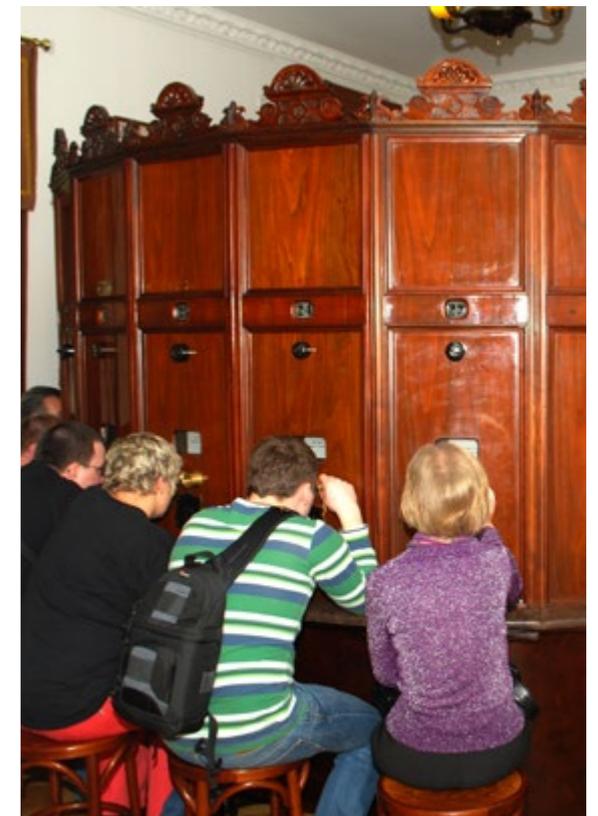
The Fotoplastikon

The Fotoplastikon is a stereoscopic machine with a collection of more than seven thousand 3D pictures. These pictures were captured by hundreds of photographers and journalists sent around the world to depict all those far away places that the common people could not afford to see.

As you walk into the tiny room that accommodates the machine, you notice old songs playing quietly in the background and a gentle smell of old wood. That's enough to take you away from the hustle of modern society!

It's also worth saying that this is the oldest working machine in its original location. There are other machines similar to this one in the world, but they are usually parked and unused in museums.

If you want to know which exhibition is on at the moment, [visit their website](#).





Jazdów

Jazdów is a small village in the very center of Warsaw.

In 1945 Finland gave Poland 400 timber houses as part of a war reparations deal. These houses were meant to help with the housing crisis that hit Warsaw after the war, and they were supposed to be removed after 5 years (it never happened, and they are still here to this day).

Check out the free events organized by visiting the ["Open Jazdów" group](#).



The Ujazdowski Castle

The Ujazdowski Castle, a laid back venue as well as the center of modern art, is located right next to the Łazienki Park.

In the castle there are several artistic events like exhibitions, educational workshops, performances, concerts, as well as lectures and seminars organized throughout the year.

The U-jazdowski also houses a cinema - which regularly screens independent movies and documentaries - and an Art Bookshop - packed with both English and Polish books and also some smart/unique souvenirs (like the crunch-able map of Warsaw).

Address: Jazdów 2

[Check out thir events here.](#)





The Ujazdowski Castle



Czerniakowskie Lake

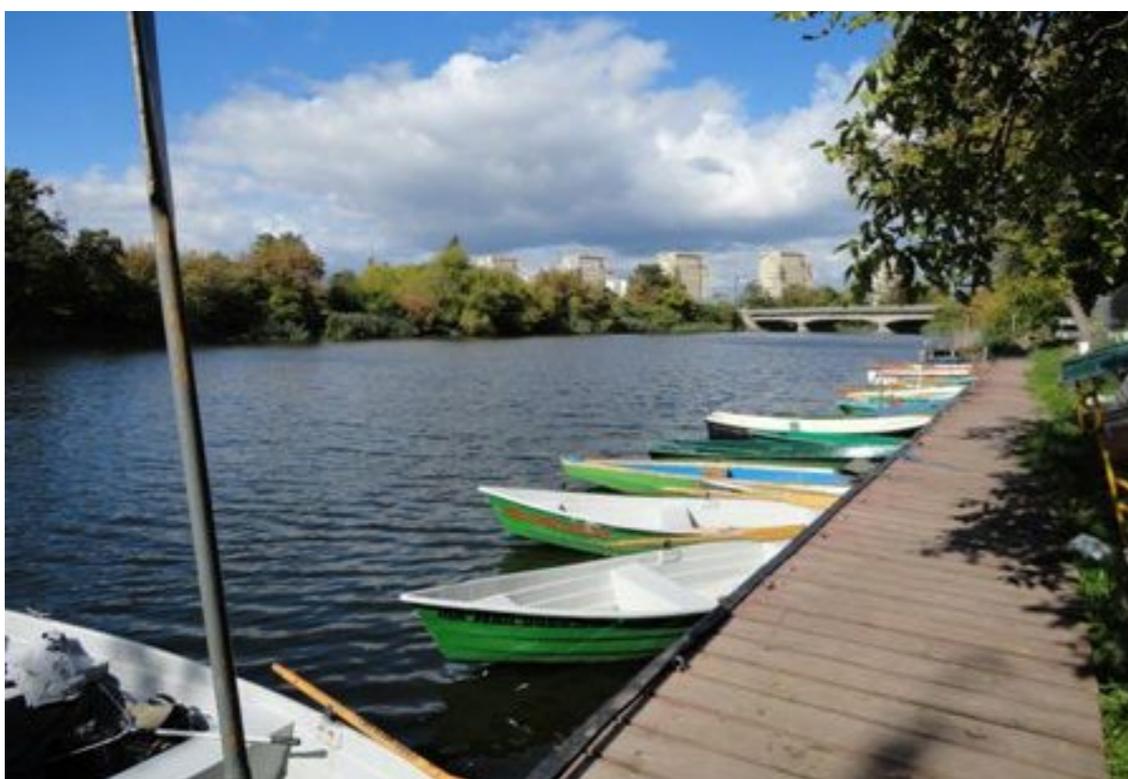
The Czerniakowskie Lake has provided summer refreshment to Varsovians for decades.

The southern part is devoid of vegetation and used as a swimming pool (in the summer season), whereas the northern zone is covered by rush vegetation and dominated by common reed.

The lake is located in the quiet neighborhood of Mokotów and is surrounded by nature reserve.

It is the perfect place if you want to take a brake from the city, swim or rent a boat.

[More info about the Czerniakowskie Lake \(in Polish\).](#)



The Dollhouse Museum

The Dollhouse Museum is one of those places that I knew existed for a long time, but that I didn't visit because I thought I wouldn't be interested in it. But I was so wrong.

The Dollhouse museum hosts over 120 historical dollhouses, shops and rooms as well a unique collection of religious toys, some even 200 years old. Each house has a captivating short story next to it (in both English and Polish), so that you can find out everything you need to know about each exhibit.

This exquisite private collection, being located in the courtyard of the Palace of Culture, is a must if you have kids, but it is also interesting for adults. The museum motto is "A nostalgic journey to the past for children aged 5 to 105"!

Address: Plac Defilad 1

[Dollhouse museum Website.](#)



[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance](#)

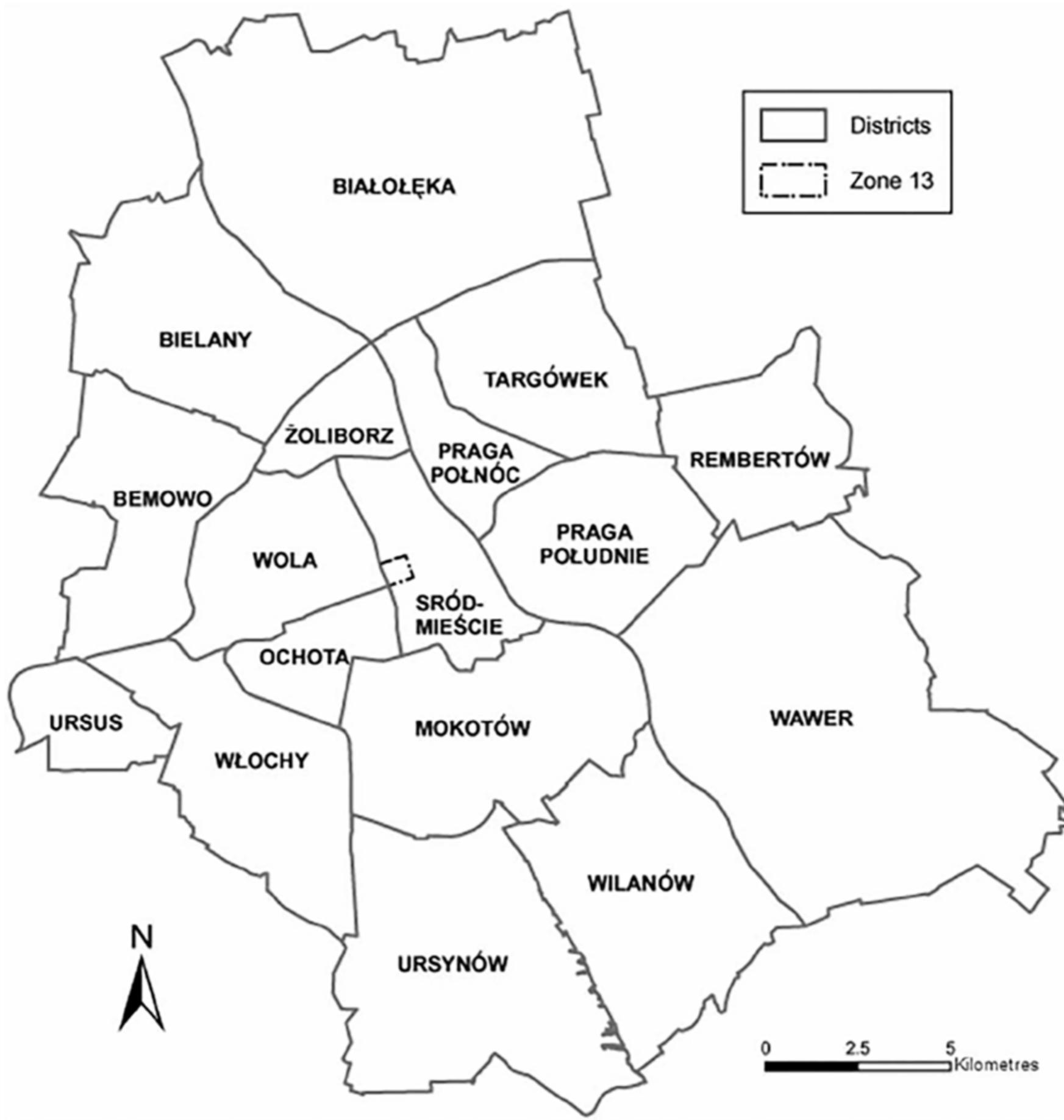


D I S T R I C T S

Discover Warsaw's districts.

Śródmieście, Praga, and Wola are the most interesting district to visit, but Warsaw has 15 more districts that are rarely mentioned in city guides.





Śródmieście District

Known as the “heart of Warsaw”, Śródmieście is the central district, comprising both the Old and the New Town. Śródmieście is also the financial, commercial and cultural center of the city.

This neighborhood boasts the tallest buildings, the most important museums, galleries, restaurants, theaters, and cinemas. It’s also the oldest and the prettiest (since the Old Town is located here) part of Warsaw.

Śródmieście is the better connected of all Warsaw’s districts. Both the Warszawa Centralna (the central railway station) and the Świętokrzyska metro station (where the two metro lines intersect) are located in this district.



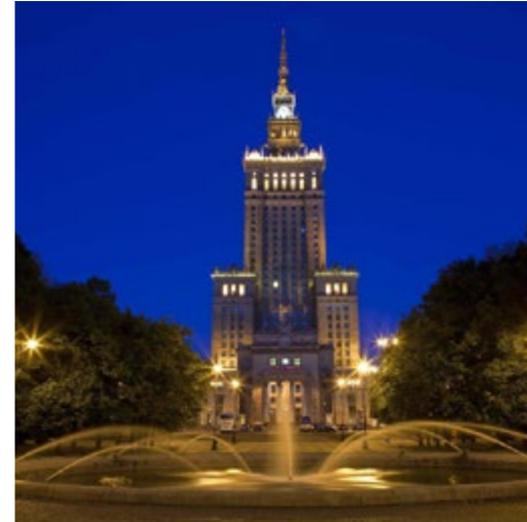
The best of... Śródmieście: Monuments, museums and sites

Presidential Palace



The official seat of the President of the Republic of Poland.

Palace of Culture and Science



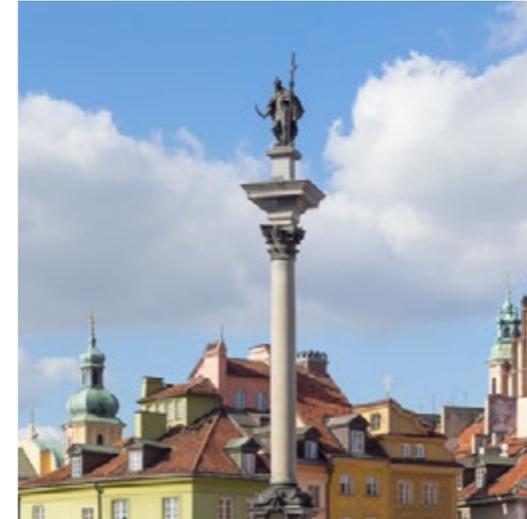
The Palace of Culture and Science is a typical example of Stalinist architecture. A present from Stalin to Poland, it is today a symbol of Warsaw. Loved and hated by the Varsovians.

The Royal Castle



The Royal Castle was the official residence of the Polish monarchs, today it is a museum which hosts among many others, two Rembrandts (Girl in a Picture Frame and A Scholar at his Writing Table).

Sigismund's Column



The Sigismund's Column is one of Warsaw's most famous landmarks. It was originally erected at the end of the 16th century but it was destroyed several times throughout the years. An older version of the column lies on the side of the Royal Castles.

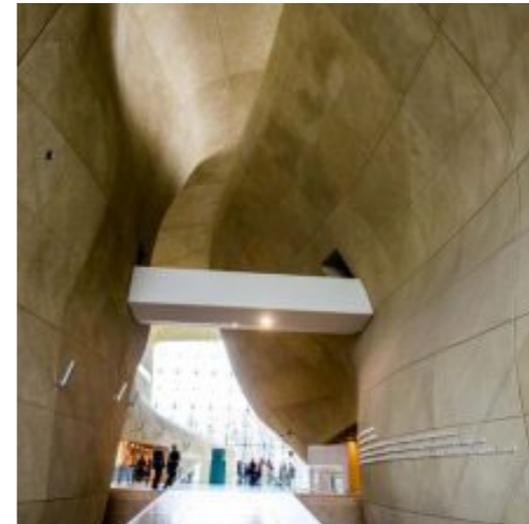
The best of... Śródmieście: Monuments, museums and sites

The Old Town



The Warsaw Old Town (Polish: Stare Miasto) is the oldest part of the city. It is one of the most prominent tourist attractions in Warsaw and a UNESCO site. The Old Town Market Place is the heart of this part of the city, with several restaurants, cafés and shops.

Museum of the History of Polish Jews (POLIN)



The museum features a multimedia exhibition about the Jewish community that flourished in Poland for a thousand years up to the World War II Holocaust.

The Hebrew word Polin means either “Poland” or “rest here” and relates to a legend about the arrival of the first Jews to Poland.

The Artificial Palm Tree



This artificial palm tree is “a symbol of tolerance, openness, and light-heartedness”.

The National Museum



The National Museum, founded in 1862, is currently one of the oldest art museums in the country. Its modernist building was erected in 1927–1938. Today, the National Museum in Warsaw boasts a collection of 830,000 works of art from Poland and abroad, from ancient to modern times.

[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance.](#)

The best of... Śródmieście: Monuments, museums and sites

The Copernicus Science Centre



The Copernicus Science Centre is a science museum containing over 450 interactive exhibits that enable visitors to carry out experiments and discover the laws of science for themselves. The Centre is the largest institution of its type in Poland and one of the most advanced in Europe.

[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance.](#)

The Łazienki Museum Complex



The venue is a center for music, the arts, and culture. It hosts several buildings like the Palace on the Isle, a classical amphitheater, and stage on the isle, the White House, the Myślewicki Palace, The Old Orangery, the New Orangery, the Temple of Diana, the Egyptian temple, the Water tower, The Hermitage, The Old Guardhouse, and several more buildings worth visiting.

The Ujazdowski Castle



In the castle there are several artistic events organized throughout the year such as exhibitions, educational workshops, performances, concerts, film screenings, as well as lectures and seminars.

Chopin Museum



The Museum, located in the Ostrogski Palace, covers the history and works of Chopin and includes original manuscripts and documents written by the composer, photographs and sculptures of him, as well as his letters. It also hosts piano recitals and competitions of Chopin's works.

[Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance to the museum.](#)



View of the Palace on the Isle, Łazienki Park

The best of... Śródmieście: Parks & Gardens

Świętokrzyski Park



The park was created in the 1950s in the area surrounding the Palace of Culture and Science.

Before WWII, this area was a densely populated district, but sections of Pańska, Sienna, Zielna and Wielka streets were removed to make space for the Palace of Culture and the adjacent park.

The Ujazdowski Park



The Ujazdowski Park is one of the most picturesque parks in Warsaw. It borders Aleje Ujazdowskie, a beautiful avenue where most of the embassies in Warsaw are located.

The Łazienki Park



The Łazienki Park is the largest park in Warsaw, occupying 76 hectares of the city center.

Originally designed in the 17th century as a baths park (hence the name), the Łazienki was transformed into a setting for palaces, villas, classicist follies, and monuments by Polish King Stanisław August.

Saxon Garden



The Saxon Garden is a 15.5-hectare public garden in central Warsaw. It is the oldest public park in the city and one of the first publicly accessible parks in the world.

The best of... Śródmieście: Parks and Gardens

Ogród Krasińskich



Public park with lawns, play areas, ancient trees & a war monument. It used to be the garden of a Baroque palace.

Warsaw University Library and Garden



The garden on the roof of the University of Warsaw Library is one of the largest and most beautiful roof gardens in Europe.

The garden consists of two parts: the upper (2000 m²) and lower (15,000 m²). Concerts, summer cinema, and urban games are often organized here. The upper garden is open only in the warm season.

The Botanical Garden



The Botanic Garden was founded in 1818.

Today, it is a medium sized botanic garden with greenhouses, an orangery, a herbarium and regular festivals & events. Worth going in spring and summer.



Section of the Ujazdowski Park

The best of... Śródmieście: Main Streets and Squares

Nowy Świat



Ulica Nowy Świat (New World Street) is one of the main historic streets of Warsaw.

It comprises part of the Royal Route (Trakt Królewski) that runs from Warsaw's Royal Castle and the Old Town, to the 17th-century royal residence in Wilanów.

Krakowskie Przedmieście



Krakowskie Przedmieście is one of the best known and most prestigious streets of Poland's capital, surrounded by historic palaces, churches and manor-houses.

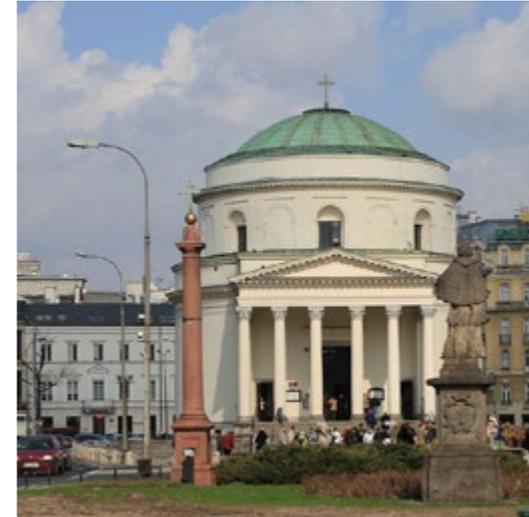
Krakowskie Przedmieście Royal Avenue constitutes the northernmost part of Warsaw's Royal Route

Marszałkowska



Marszałkowska is one of the main thoroughfares of Warsaw's city center.

Plac Trzech Krzyży



The Three Crosses Square (Polish: Plac Trzech Krzyży) is an important square in the central district of Warsaw. It lies on the city's Royal Route and links Nowy Świat Street, to the North, and with Ujazdów Avenue to the South.

Much of the square's area is devoted to a major thoroughfare.

The best of... Śródmieście: Main Streets and Squares

Plac Konstytucji/MDM



The square was constructed in the initial post-war years on the Marszałkowska street as a main element of social realist urban project, based on the designs of Jankowski, Knothe, Sigalin and Stępiński. Together with the Palace of Culture and Science it was the main architectural social realist investment of Warsaw.

Plac Zbawiciela



The square was the setting and primary filming location for Krzysztof Krauze's 2006 film, Plac Zbawiciela.

The artistic installation Tęcza (Rainbow) symbol of LGBT rights in Poland was installed here in summer 2012 but burnt down twice by vandals opposing LGTB rights.

It was finally removed in 2015.

Plac Bankowy



Plac Bankowy is one of Warsaw's main squares. Located downtown, adjacent to the Saxon Garden and Warsaw Arsenal, it is also a principal public-transport hub.

Piłsudski Square



Piłsudski Square, is the largest square of Poland's capital, located in the Warsaw city centre.

The Square is named for Marshal Józef Piłsudski who was instrumental in the restoration of Polish statehood after World War I (Poland was absent from the map of Europe for 123 years!).

The best of... Śródmieście: Main Streets and Squares

Aleje Ujazdowskie



The Ujazdowskie avenue is surrounded by many notable historical villas, palaces, and parks, as well as politically important buildings (several embassies are located on this street).



Detail of social realist architecture in Pl. Konstytucji

Praga Districts

Praga, located on the east bank of the Vistula, is actually composed by two separate districts, Praga Północ and Praga Południe, which are pretty different from each other.

Praga Północ (Praga North in English) still has a bad reputation among Varsovians because of its dangerous past (it was nicknamed "Bermuda Triangle"). Nowadays, however, this district is becoming a cultural and trendy hotspot, with art galleries, artists' ateliers, cool restaurants, and pubs. It is also important to note that, unlike most of Warsaw, the Praga district was not destroyed during WWII and still preserves its charming pre-war character.

Despite its allure and vibrant character, this district has the highest unemployment rate and the poorest population. It's safe, especially compared to other European capitals, but avoid dark alleys during the night hours and



don't engage in arguments with shady people.
Common sense.

I've lived in Praga for several years and I've never had any problems.

Praga Południe (Praga South in English) is mainly a residential area but still has some parts that are worth visiting.

This district is divided in Gocław and Gocławek (districts crowded with 1960s & 1970s buildings), Saska Kępa - a relatively prestigious neighbourhood - and Olszynka Grochowska, which is mainly covered by a forest.





A typical facade in Praga

The best of... Praga: Monuments, Museums and Sites

The Praga's zoo



There is more to Praga's zoo that meets the eye.

I suggest you read about Żabiński, the Warsaw Zoo's director who saved thousands of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII.

Warsaw Vodka Factory "Koneser"



Vodka is not only part of Poland's national heritage, but it is also an essential attribute of 'Polishness' recognised all across the world.

The goal of the Polish Vodka Museum is to present vodka's unique history, the process of vodka production, and its different flavours using modern technology.

The Neon Museum



A unique little gem in Warsaw's Praga district, the Neon Museum is a private initiative of photographer Ilona Karwińska.

This museum has the biggest collection of neons in Europe and it is the only one of its kind in Poland.

Hangar 646



Hangar 646 is a trampoline park build in a former airport hangar in Goclaw (Praga). You'll find over 60 trampolines, a foam pit, a dodgeball zone, a spring floor, an airtrack and many other attractions.

The best of... Praga: Monuments, museums and sites

The Praga band monument



Head to the monument and look for the list of the songs on the drum in the middle. Text the number of the song you'd like to listen to and the band will play it for you.

PGE Narodowy



The PGE Narodowy or National Stadium is a retractable roof football stadium. It is used mostly for football matches of Poland's national football team, but it is also home to several culturale events and to "Zimowy Narodowy", a winter fair with several winter attractions.



The Praga Band monument, Praga

The best of... Praga: Parks & Gardens

Praski Park



The Praski Park is located right next to the Warsaw zoo. In the warm months, there used to be three bears living here (secured in a concrete island visible from the street) but the Zoo decided to eliminate this area.

The 13-metre high giraffe by Władysław Frucz (1981) is definitely worth a look.

Skaryszewski Park



The Skaryszewski Park is one of the most beautiful Parks in Warsaw. You can picnic or come with a bike (contrary to Łazienki Park).

The Poniatowski Beach



Parties, bars, walking routes, bike paths, sandy beaches, wildlife and water sports.

The Poniatowski beach is getting better and better every year, with cool events and sport tournaments happening throughout the summer months.

The best of... Praga: Main Streets and Squares

Francuska Street



Francuska Street is crowded with nice independent cafes, wine bars and restaurants. Worth stopping by to get a quick bite.

Ząbkowska Street



Ząbkowska Street is a student, tourist and hipster-friendly place with several cheap restaurants and cool bars. This is a hub for artists and musicians.

Visit during summer weekends, when there is likely to be a small street festival.

Ulica 11 Listopada 22



A nice courtyard filled with graffiti in Ulica 11 Listopada 22.

You will find two alternative pubs and an underground club ([more about them in the nightlife section](#)).

Wola District

Wola, is the first district in Warsaw west of Śródmieście. It used to be an industrial area and today is an important business centre where several multinational corporations have based their offices.

This is a very attractive district to live in as it is right next to the center and the transportation network is excellent.



The best of... Wola

Warsaw Rising Museum



The [Warsaw Rising Museum](#), regarded as one of the best museum in the country, is a tribute to the Varsovians who fought for their freedom during WWII.

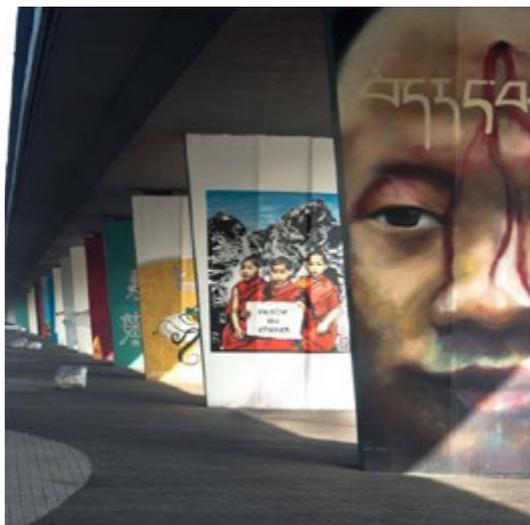
The Gas Work Museum



In the late 19th century, the Wola Gas Factory was an avant-garde complex providing gas and lighting to Warsaw's streets.

Today, it's a very interesting (and FREE) Gas Work Museum, with a great collection of original machinery, street lamps and gas cookers from over a century ago, all in mint condition.

The Tibetan Gallery



The Tibetan Gallery is an “open-air street art gallery” showing Tibetan culture, Tibetan history and the atrocities taking place today in Tibet. This gallery is the first of its kind in the world.

The idea of creating the Gallery came after the Council of Warsaw awarded Dalai Lama with honorary citizenship.

Pracownia Cukiernicza “Zagoździński”



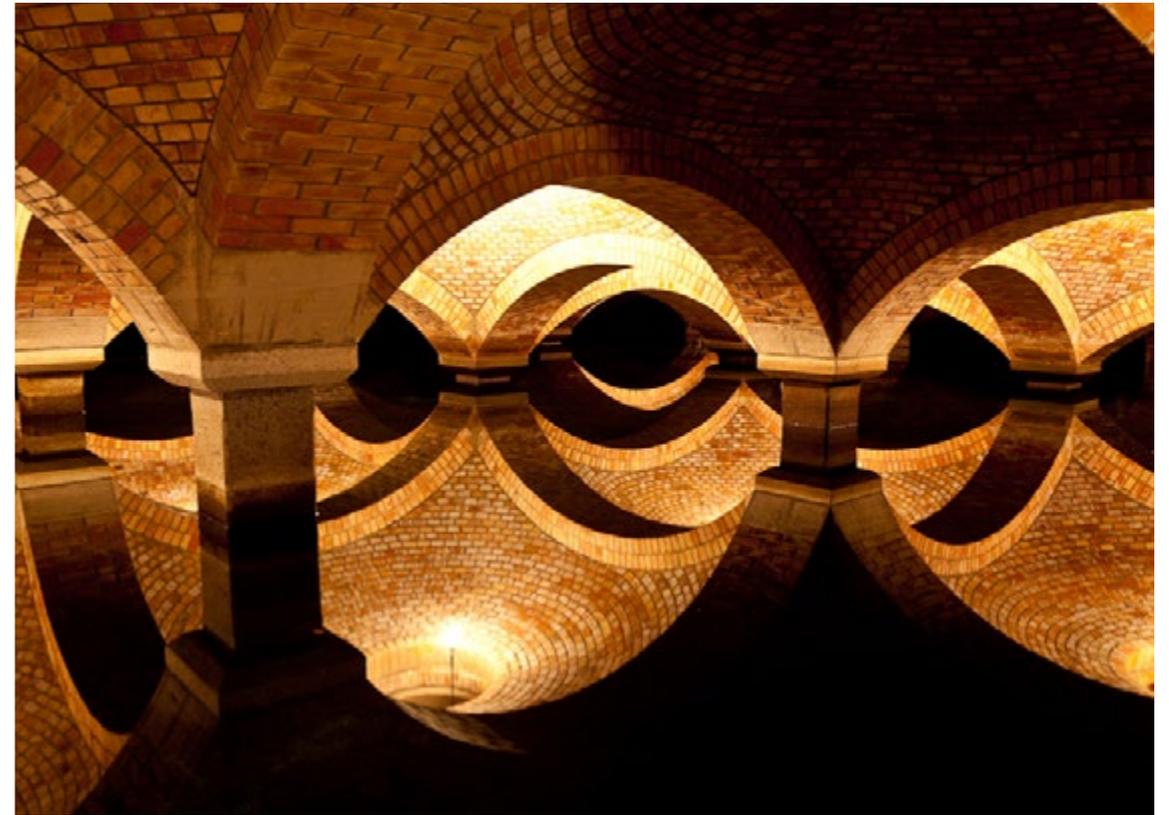
The Pracownia Cukiernicza “Zagoździński” is the most famous (and probably the best) place to taste a delicious Pączek (traditional Polish donut).

It was opened in open in 1925 and continues to serve donuts to hungry Varsovians to this day.

Ochota and Żoliborz

Ochota District

Ochota is an ideal residential district: quiet, fashionable, close to the center, well connected and with many recreational areas. For all the above reasons this is one of Warsaw's most popular, and therefore crowded, districts. Although it is great to live here, this district is not the ideal place to visit during a trip to Warsaw. Worth visiting, but rarely open to public, is the Warsaw Water Filters complex.



Żoliborz District

One of the smallest of all districts in Warsaw, Żoliborz is a green district very close to the center. This is an interesting place to live in, but not so interesting to visit. Check out, however, the Żoliborz Beach, located towards the end of the northern section of the Vistulan Boulevards, it's quieter than other beaches on the Vistula, has a nice bar, and can easily be reached by bike (or kajak!).





Warsaw Water Filters

Mokotów District

Mokotów is the district immediately South of Śródmieście. The southern part of Mokotow, which is close to both the center and the airport, is one of the preferred districts for multinational corporations.

Because of its location, good communication network, and high standard of housing, Mokotów is the most populous district in Warsaw.

Mokotów is also very green. You can find numerous parks (with a total area of 145 hectares), a nature reserve ([Czerniakowskie Lake](#), which is the biggest lake in Warsaw) and the longest network of bike paths in Warsaw.



The best of... Mokotów

Królikarnia



Królikarnia, a section of the National Museum, hosts the highest number of sculptures in Poland. The access to the museum and to the sculpture park is free of charge.

For many of us this park is a regular hanging spot. Very quiet and almost deserted during the day, offers superb view of the classicist palace.

Lake Czerniakowskie



The Czerniakowskie Lake has provided summer refreshment to Varsovians for decades.

The Southern part is used as a swimming pool in the summer season and is devoid of vegetation whereas the northern zone is covered by rush vegetation and dominated by common reed.

Pole Mokotowskie



Pole Mokotowskie is a large park located between Warsaw's Mokotów district and the city center. The park is one of the largest in Warsaw and until World War II it was occupied by an airfield.

The park is also famous for its bars and outdoor events in summer.

Ursynów District

Ursynów was once called “bedroom district” because of its purely residential nature. Most of the houses were constructed in the seventies using prefabricated cement blocks.

The district is changing though. More and more supermarkets, shops and high schools have been opened in recent years.

As other residential districts, it does not offer much from a tourism standpoint.

Worth noting though are the Natolin Palace (today home to the College of Europe campus) and the Służewiec horseracing track (built in 1939).



Wilanów District

Wilanow is famous for its baroque palace: the Wilanów Palace. Sometimes called the Polish Versailles, this palace (and museum) is one of the main attractions in Warsaw. Every winter, from December to March, the Palace's garden hosts a suggestive light festival (worth visiting!). [Warsaw Pass entitles to free entrance to the museum and garden.](#)

The Poster Museum is definitely a must-see if you're interested in cool vintage posters from the Polish school of posters (something in between a poster and art - [read more about the Polish school of Posters](#)).

Wilanów has large wild underdeveloped areas, which are perfect for activities in nature such as bicycle riding, golf, and kayaking along the Vistula.



The best of... Wilanów

Poster Museum



Posters are very important in the Polish culture. During the Communist regime they were probably the only colorful things one would see in the streets.

The first Poster Museum in the world, opened in 1968 as a branch of the National Museum in Warsaw.

Wilanów Palace



Wilanów Palace is a royal palace and one of Poland's most important monuments. It survived Poland's partitions and both world wars, and so serves as a reminder of Poland's royal, cultural and artistic heritage.

Wilanów Palace's Garden



The beautiful gardens of the Wilanów Palace have recently gained a high touristic value thanks to the Royal Garden of Light, an open-air exhibition with thousands of colourful LEDs creating sophisticated shapes. This exhibition is available only after dark during autumn and winter months.

[*Read more.*](#)



Bielany District

Bielany is one of the greenest Warsaw districts. It's situated in the northern part of Warsaw, on the left bank of the Vistula. This district neighbors with the Kampinos National Park ("the green lungs of Warsaw"), which is located further north-west.

Worth noting are The Bielany Forest, a Nature Reserve remnant of the ancient medieval Forest Mazowsze, and the Młociny Park, a dense forest which acts as a buffer zone to the Kampinos National Park.



Białoleka District

Pronounced something like Biah-OO-oh-OO-en-kah, Białoleka is the furthestmost northern district in Warsaw. This district has gained the surname of "Warsaw dormitory" because of the insane pace at which it invested in housing constructions.



Targówek District

Targówek is located on the east side of Praga Północ, on the right bank of the Vistula. Targówek is divided into a residential part (Bródno, Targówek Mieszkaniowy and Zacisze) and an industrial part (Targówek Fabryczny).

30% of Targówek is covered by parks, including Lasek Bródnowski, Park Bródnowski and Park Wiecha.

Interesting:

The Bródnowski Cemetery, established in 1883, it is one of Europe's oldest cemeteries.

Bemowo District

Bemowo is the district right west of Wola. It is characterized by extended green areas with a conglomeration of residential tower blocks around Powstańców Śląskich street.

The war bunkers in Fort Bema can be interesting to visit ([we run our archery battles there!](#)).



Ursus District

Ursus is the smallest of all the districts in Warsaw. Formerly a purely industrial district (it takes its name from the brand of tractors once manufactured here) it is now turning into a residential one.

Włochy District

Włochy, which literally means “Italy” in Polish, is a sparsely populated district in the south-west of Warsaw. Here is where the Chopin Airport lies. It’s well connected to the city, but it’s quite far away and offers little to nothing on a tourist standpoint.

Rembertów District

Rembertów is a district in the eastern side of Warsaw, right next to Praga Południe. It’s the least populated district in Warsaw and one of the greenest, with 30% of its territory covered by forests.



Wawer District

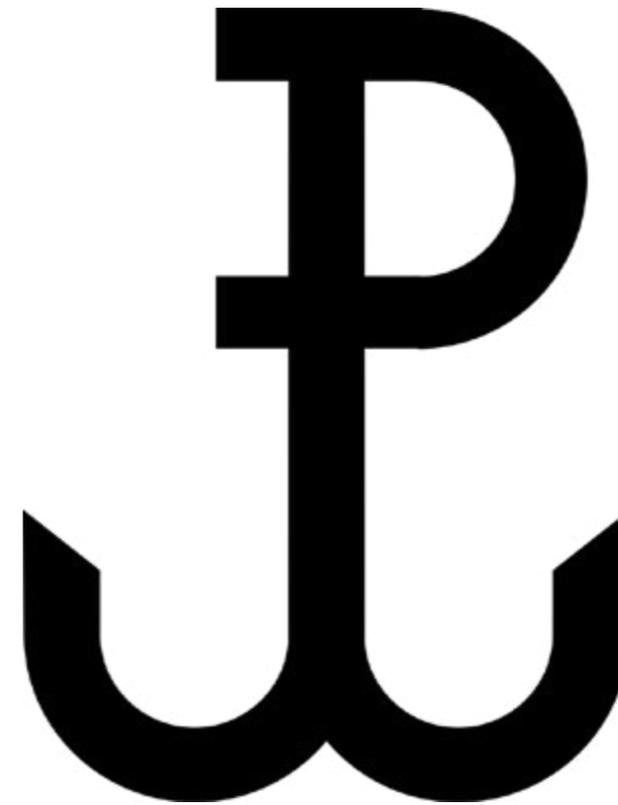
Wawer is the biggest district in Warsaw, taking over 15% of the whole Warsaw area. Forests cover more than one-third of its area.

Wawer saw one of the first large-scale massacres of Polish civilians by Nazi Germany.

Members of the Armia Krajowa started writing "Pomścimy Wawer" ("We'll avenge Wawer") on Warsaw walls. The Kotwica later gained more meanings like Polska Walcząca ("Fighting Poland"), Wojsko Polskie ("Polish Army") and Powstanie Warszawskie ("[Warsaw Uprising](#)").

Wesoła District

Wesoła was the last of the districts to be annexed to Warsaw. Forests cover more than half of its area and similarly to Wawer, this is a good district for nature lovers.



The Kotwica, the symbol of the Warsaw Uprising, originally meant "Pomścimy Wawer" ("We'll avenge Wawer").





EXPERIENCES

Looking for a personalized experience?

We handpicked the best experiences offered in Warsaw so that you don't have to go through the process of trial and error.

PS: Your [discount](#) code is in the "budget tips" chapter.

Enjoy!



ALTERNATIVE WARSAW TOUR



Embark on a journey through time on a cult communist fire truck.

You'll visit Warsaw's hidden spots in the most original way.

[To the alternative tour.](#)

WARSAW COCKTAIL WORKSHOP



Learn the secrets behind cocktail making from the best mixologists in Poland!

Make fantastic cocktails & drink your own creations.

[To the cocktail workshop.](#)

POLISH COOKING CLASS



Learn to cook according to traditional Polish recipes handed down from generation to generation.

You eat what you cook (and you get a glass of wine included in the price)!

[To the Polish cooking class.](#)

WARSAW BIKE TOUR



Exploring the city by bike is by far the best way to do it as you cover a lot more ground in less time!

The guides stick to the nicest bike paths and parks, so that you enjoy the tour without a worry.

[To the bike tour.](#)



Warsaw Cocktail Workshop

WARSAW FOOD TOUR



Do you believe that travelling is all (or almost all) about food? Then you cannot miss this experience!

You'll sample the best of Polish food from the best markets in the city and spend time with knowledgeable Warsaw guides at the same time.

[To the food tour.](#)

WARSAW BOAT PARTY



Unforgettable open bar party on a Vistula cruise. You will meet hundreds of young people from all over the world, and when the cruise finishes, the party continues downtown.

[To the boat party \(only available in Summer\)](#)

BUBBLE FOOTBALL & MORE!



Feel like you want to have some fun with your group of friends? Perhaps you are coming for a bachelor's party?

Why not have a blast playing bubble football, drunk football and electric football?

[More about bubble football here.](#)

WARSAW OLD TOWN TOUR



The Warsaw Old Town is the most beautiful part of Warsaw, and because of its complete reconstruction following WWII, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Join our knowledgeable guides and discover the secrets of the Old Town!

[To the Old Town tour.](#)

WARSAW PUB CRAWL



Do you want to have a blast and meet likeminded people? A pub crawl is what you need.

You'll meet young people from all over the world and visit some of the hottest clubs and pubs in town.

[To the pub crawl.](#)

ARCHERY GAMES



Do you want to move your body and feel the adrenaline pumping in your veins? Challenge your friends in an archery battle with real bows and arrows! Who'll be the winner? An experience you'll remember!

Safety is guaranteed thanks to foamy arrowheads and masks.

[To the archery battle.](#)

WARSAW EVENING TOUR



A chill evening tour exploring Warsaw and drinking vodka in a cult communist van (the same van as with the alternative tour).

You will get lots of interesting facts about the city's history, and about what it means to be living in Warsaw, and of course, plenty of booze!

[To the evening tour.](#)

WARSAW BEER TOUR



In the past years, Poland joined the craft beer revolution and micro-breweries popped up everywhere across the country.

Book a beer tour to discover how many kinds of delicious beers you can find in Poland.

[To the beer tour.](#)





S L E E P I N G

Reasonably priced quality accomodations.

Warsaw offers a vast variety of accommodations, especially in Śródmieście. Prices, even in the middle-high class, are a lot cheaper than in other European capitals.



Hostels (\$)

Oki Doki – Our Hostel of Choice



Oki Doki, one of the best hostels in the world in 2006, has private rooms decorated in a different styles: the photography room, the Danish room, the Japanese room, etc.

Best for: backpacker, party animal,
Couple on a budget
Double: around 130 PLN
Dormitory: 50/65 PLN

Warsaw Downtown Hostel – Cozy



Warsaw Downtown Hostel is a sociable and enjoyable little hostel. Every night the staff organizes themed nights in the cozy common areas.

Best for: backpackers, price aware couples
Double room: around 130 PLN
Dormitory: 50/65 PLN

Dream Hostel Warsaw – In the Old Town



Dream Hostel is a modern hostel (recently purchased beds, brand new kitchen) which offers free high-speed wi-fi and social atmosphere. In the common room, you can find a very nice bar and daily events every night.

Best for: backpacker, couples
Double room: around 170 PLN
Dormitory: 50/65 PLN

Hotels (\$-\$\$\$)

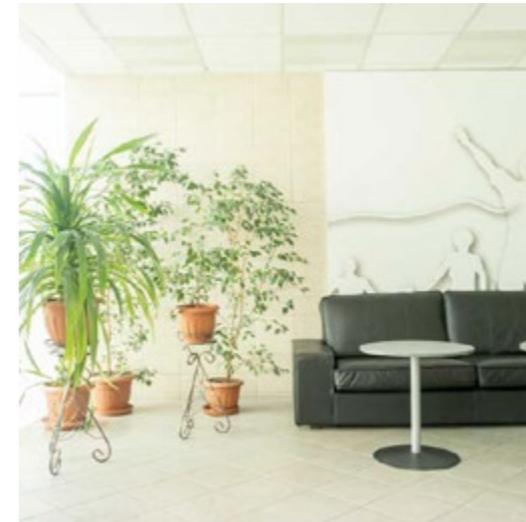
Moxy Warsaw Praga - Our choice



Moxy Warsaw Praga is a cool and dynamic hotel, with the heart of a boutique hotel and an appetite for adventure. Jenga, karaoke, board-games, parties, and the bar is always open.

Best for: couples, party seekers
Single: 320 PLN
Double: 320 PLN

OSiR Polna - cheap & good location (\$)



OSiR Polna might not be the prettiest, but is central, cheap, clean and peaceful. It is especially recommended for families because of the competitive triple room rates.

Best for: price aware families
Single: 215/320 PLN
Double: 215/320 PLN
Triple: 215/320 PLN

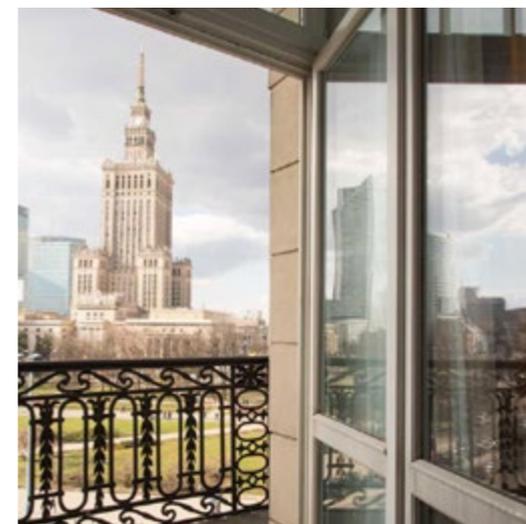
Mercure Warszawa Centrum - Mid-range



Mercure Warszawa Centrum has spacious rooms complete with everything you may need. Some of the rooms have a pretty nice view of the city.

Best for: couples, families, luxury seekers
Price for a single: 490 PLN
Price for a double: 490 PLN

Hotel Polonia Palace – Luxury in the mid range



Hotel Polonia Palace is part of a lovingly restored early 20th-century palace which was declared architectural monument of Poland's history and culture in 1965. The breakfast is one of the highlights of the hotel.

Best for: luxury seekers, couples, Families
Single room: 490 PLN
Double room: 490 PLN

Hotels (\$-\$\$\$)

Warsaw Marriott Hotel – **The best view**



The [*Warsaw Marriott Hotel*](#) is one of the tallest buildings in the city and prides itself with the best panoramic view in Warsaw.

Best for: Family, Couple, Businessman, Luxury seeker

Single: 680 PLN

Double: 680 PLN

Hotel Rialto – **Boutique hotel in the city center**



The [*Hotel Rialto*](#) is a perfectly maintained boutique hotel in the center of Warsaw.

The Art Deco interior reminds us of pre-war Warsaw, and the quality of the furniture is of the highest standard.

Best for: Family, Couples, Businessman, Luxury seeker

Double room: Starting at 680 PLN

NOTE: Hotel Rialto will soon become part of “Nobu Hotels” and probably change the interior. Nobu Hotels have become synonymous with passionate service, distinctive design and unpretentious luxury.



BUDGET GUIDE

If you are on a budget, I've got good news for you: Warsaw is very, very cheap compared to other European cities.

Warsaw is also very inexpensive when it comes to culture. According to a recent report, which compares the price of ballet, opera, concert, top museums, art galleries and heritage attractions, Warsaw is the cheapest capital in Europe when it comes to culture. In Warsaw, a museum ticket costs, on average, about 20 PLN (5 €) and a top classical music concert less than 80 PLN (20 €).

If you want to experience the same in other capitals like Vienna, Amsterdam or Paris, you'll have to pay up to three times more.

Anyway, there is always room for saving and we've compiled all the budget tips we could think of right here.



BUDGET TIP N°1:

Avoid Chopin performances in the city, as you'll end up paying an average of 65 PLN for your ticket.

Go to the free Chopin concert in Łazienki Park (in spring and summer, every Sunday) or to the [Koneser in Praga](#). Check [current events in Koneser here](#).

If there are no free Chopin concerts available, you should know that the [Warsaw Pass](#) includes a chopin concert which runs every day.

BUDGET TIP N°2:

Avoid buying cheap souvenirs in the Old Town.

Instead, head to a local designer shop like Reset, Pan tu nie stał and Cepelia. Your money is much better spent there.

BUDGET TIP N°3:

Most museums are free at least one day a week. [Check out the whole list of free Museums in the next section](#). Temporary exhibitions are usually not included in the free entrance.

BUDGET TIP N°4:

If you are planning to visit a lot of museums, get a [Warsaw Pass](#), which includes free entrances (including the temporary exhibitions) and discounts to several attractions in Warsaw.

Also, the [Warsaw Pass](#) allows you to skip the line at the various ticket offices and always guarantees the entrance to museums.

Do not get a [Warsaw Pass](#) for your kids (younger than 7 or if you are a student under 26). There are already good discounts available for you.

BUDGET TIP N°5:

Do not get a Hop on Hop off bus! Those are not so good in Warsaw because they are quite infrequent.

Transportation in Warsaw is very efficient and very simple to use. Consider getting a 3-day transportation ticket for 36 PLN. You are going to have to make at least 8 rides for it to pay off.

If you travel with a group of 5 or more people you should get a Single fare transfer group ticket for 22 PLN.

BUDGET TIP N°6:

The normal ticket is valid for an unlimited number of journeys (within 75 minutes). Eg: if you change from bus to metro and then tram you only need one ticket).



BUDGET TIP N°7:

Children younger than 7 and seniors older than 70 travel on public transport for free. No need to get a ticket as long as the age can be proved with an official document.

BUDGET TIP N°8:

Children and youths from 7 until they turn 16 travel at 50% discount. You will need to get a reduced ticket (Bilet Ulgowy in Polish).

BUDGET TIP N°9:

Get a Polish sim card with data transfer (unless you can surf for free in the EU). Here in Poland, you can get up to 50 GB of free data. [Follow the instructions on this post.](#)

BUDGET TIP N°10:

Install the following taxi apps and use the referral codes to get free rides (if you are traveling with a buddy you can get up to 6 free rides

in total):

UBER: Use this code to get 10 PLN:

federicom986ui

Taxify: Use this code to get 10/20 PLN:

PRLR9

Mytaxi: Use this code to get 20 PLN:

federico.mor9

Taxis are crazy cheap here in Warsaw and it is often convenient to get a taxi (especially when sharing with more people) at night when buses are more sporadic.

BUDGET TIP N°11:

Always choose to pay in PLN while paying with your card. Your own bank, compared to local banks, usually gives much better conversion rates.



BUDGET TIP N°12:

Lock your Veturilo bike before the free 20 minutes are over. You can do this over and over and rent bikes for free!

BUDGET TIP N°13:

Avoid money exchange (Kantor in Polish) inside train stations and airports. The exchange rates and commissions charged inside the airports are a ripoff.

BUDGET TIP N°14:

Don't say "dziękuję" after a meal at restaurant unless you want them to keep the change. Be aware of that, especially when paying with large notes!

BUDGET TIP N°15:

Use the S3 train or a bus to go to the Chopin Airport. You can travel with a regular ticket (4,40 PLN).

BUDGET TIP N°16:

If you buy the [Airport transfer from KM](#) you get 75 minutes of free transport in Warsaw as well.

BUDGET TIP N°17:

In summer, the evening ticket of the Palace of culture terrace costs 2 PLN extra if you enter after 8 PM. Just enter at 7:45PM and wait for sunset, nobody will check your ticket.

BUDGET TIP N°18:

As a customer of this guide you can get a discount on all our activities. We already offer the experiences at the lowest price in the market.

By using the discount code, you will be paying less than any other tourist in Warsaw (we never offer discounts outside this guide).

Discount code: **OUTGUIDE10**





FREE MUSEUMS

With a single free ticket you already make up what you spent for this guide. And that makes us happy!

Polish museums, with the exception of some private museums, are free at least one day a week.

Be aware, however, that free days at the museums are usually a lot busier than the other days. Moreover, free entrances do not include temporary exhibitions.

If you'd like to enjoy a more personal and complete experience, we suggest you go on a regular day.

Note: early morning during weekdays are the best to avoid local crowds.

FREE EVERY DAY:

1) MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN WARSAW

2) MUSEUM ON THE VISTULA

3) ASIA AND PACIFIC MUSEUM

4) GASWORK MUSEUM

MONDAY:

1) POSTER MUSEUM

TUESDAY:

1) THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

2) MUSEUM OF CARICATURE AND CARTOON ART



WEDNESDAY:

- 1) THE FRYDERYK CHOPIN MUSEUM IN WARSAW (from March 2019)
- 2) THE ROYAL CASTLE IN WARSAW - MUSEUM

THURSDAY:

- 1) POLIN. Museum of the history of Polish Jews
- 2) ZACHĘTA - THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
- 3) MUSEUM OF INDEPENDENCE
- 4) ŁAZIENKI MUSEUM COMPLEX
- 5) WILANOW PALACE
- 6) CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART UJAZDOWSKI

FRIDAY:

No specific free museum on Friday, you can

pick one of those that are free every day.

SATURDAY:

- 1) POLISH ARMY MUSEUM
- 2) MUSEUM OF SPORT AND TOURISM

SUNDAY:

- 1) THE WARSAW RISING MUSEUM
- 2) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY





PRACTICAL

The vast majority of European visitors to Warsaw arrive at Modlin Airport, 40km north-west of the city centre.

Modlin Airport

Warsaw Modlin Airport is a low-cost international airport opened in July 2012.

From Modlin Airport to Warszawa Centralna:

1) Bus + Train (19 PLN)

Service run by Koleje Mazowieckie (KM). Ticket [purchasable online](#). It includes 75 minutes of travel on public transport in the city.

2) Direct bus (34 PLN)

Service run by Modlinbus. Ticket purchasable at the airport and online at modlinbus.pl.

Warsaw Chopin Airport

The Warsaw Chopin Airport is the main international airport of the city.

From Chopin to Warszawa Centralna:

1) [Taxi](#) (15/20 PLN)

Read more about [Uber and other taxi apps here](#).

2) Bus number 175 (3.4 PLN for the 20 minutes ticket)

3) Train KM to Warszawa Centralna (3.4 PLN, same ticket as bus)

Public transport in Warsaw

Warsaw's public transport is generally very clean, reliable, quiet and much cheaper than in other European cities.

The extensive network is operated by ZTM and

it connects the city's neighborhoods by tram, metro, bus and trains. That means that you can use every means of transport with the same ticket.

Warsaw Zones and Tickets explained

Warsaw is divided in two zones: Zone 1 represents the official Warsaw borders. Zone 2 are the outskirts of Warsaw.

Basically all of the attractions, bars, restaurants and activities are in zone 1 and, in my experience, you'll never need a zone 2 ticket.

All public transportation tickets can be purchased at:

- ZTM service points inside metro stations
- every kiosk (newstands often found on the side of the road and next to bus stops).
- ticket machines can be found in metro stations, selected bus stops and on buses (but not on trams yet, it will be introduced some day in 2019).

It is not possible to buy a ticket from the bus

driver.

Important to know:

The ticket machines on buses and trams allow you to pay by card only (also contactless).

You need to validate your ticket when you get on the bus (unless you buy the ticket directly on the bus, in which case it's already authenticated).

Cost of tickets ([official page here](#))

The single tickets can be 20-minute (3,40 PLN), 75-minutes (4,40 PLN), 90 minutes (7 PLN), one-day (15 PLN), weekend (24 PLN) and group weekend (40 PLN).

If you are going to make 4 or more trips in one day you should get a one-day ticket, otherwise just get a mix of single 20-min and 75-min tickets and keep it for later use.

If you travel on a daily basis for at least 30 days, you should get long-term tickets (30-day



or 90-day), as these allow you to save a considerable amount of money in the long run.

The ZTM tariffs vary. Check the list below to see if you have the right to travel for free or with a 50% discount.

FARE FREE:

- Children younger than 7,
- Elders over 70,
- children and youths with diagnosed disability and
- blood donors.

50% DISCOUNT:

- Children and youths older than 7 but younger than 21 (older than 16 have to show a school ID card)
- Pensioners younger than 70
- Persons with moderate disability
- Foreign school students, until they turn 26 (ISIC card)
- PhD students, until they turn 35
- Students of bachelor's programmes, master's

programmes, or engineer's programmes
[For a complete list of go to this link \(English\).](#)

Metro

The metro in Warsaw is fairly simple: there are only two lines which intersect in "Świętokrzyska". Because of the limited reach, Metro must often be used in conjunction with buses and trams.

Route planning (useful Mobile Apps)

- "[Jak Dojade](#)" which is also available in English.
- Google Maps is also very accurate (and simpler to use).

Taxis

Taxis are cheap in Warsaw (about 3 PLN per km) but be aware of scams: unofficial taxi drivers target tourists on a rush to the airport. Make sure you take your time to get to the airport and use one of the official taxi companies and keep your luggage with you.

List of official Radio-Taxi companies in Warsaw:

Bayer Taxi	196 67
City Taxi	194 59, 848 88 88
Eco Car System	123456789
Ele Sky Taxi	22 811 11 11
Express Taxi	196 63
Glob Cab Taxi	196 68, 66 00 96 68
Gold Taxi	196 88
Grosik Taxi	22 646 46 46
Halo-Taxi-OK	196 23
Korpo Taxi	196 24
Merc Taxi	22 677 77 77
MPT	191 91
Plus Taxi	196 21
Prestige Taxi	22 866 66 66
Sawa Taxi	22 644 44 44
Super Taxi	196 22
Tele Taxi	800 400 400
Tele Radio Taxi	196 27
Volfra Taxi	196 25

Always type the prefix (22) in front of the number and +48 for Poland.



Uber, Taxify and other taxi apps

Uber and Taxify are cheaper and faster than regular taxis and you can use a discount code for your first ride.

Use this code to get 10 PLN from Uber:
federicom986ui

Use this code to get 10/20 PLN from Taxify:
PRLR9

Use this code to get 20 PLN from Mytaxi:
federico.mor9

Veturilo - Warsaw Public Bicycle

Veturilo public bikes are everywhere in the city (although not in Winter).

You [need to register](#) and deposit a minimum of 10 pln. The first 20 minutes are free, perfect for short commutes.

[Download the app.](#)

Fees

Initial one time deposit	10 PLN
- 1 to 20 minutes	0 PLN
- from 21 to 60 minutes	1 PLN
- Second hour	3 PLN
- Third hour	5 PLN
- The fourth and extra hour	7 PLN
- Fee for exceeding 12 hours	200 PLN
Theft, loss or destruction of a bicycle:	2000 PLN

Cost saving tip: find a locking station before the first 20 minutes are over, park the bike, and



rent a new one to get 20 more free minutes.

Lime Scooters!

This is actually my new favourite way of traveling around the city.

The lime scooters are electric scooters that you can find on the street.

All you need to find them (and rent them) is the lime app ([Google Play](#), [App Store](#)).

You can expect to spend about 3 PLN per km.



Currency & Exchange

Poland's national currency is the Polish zloty (PLN). Złoty bills come in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200, while 1 and 2 zloty are issued as coins. There are 100 groszy in a zloty, and these coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50.

Tip: Make sure you always have some coins and small banknotes in your wallet. Small shops are usually terrified of the 100 zloty bill (around 25 €)! It is a bit weird, but they might not have enough cash to give you the change if you pay with a 100 zloty bill or larger. Fortunately, the vast majority of shops accepts card payments, which partially solves the problem.

Cost saving tip: When paying with card, you will be asked if you want to be charged in your currency or in Złoty. Always pay in Złoty to save on conversion rates.



Price guide

The Złoty has been fairly stable in the past years so you can rely on this table for a quick conversion:

	PLN	EUR	UK Pound	US Dollar
Beer	10	2.32	2	2.6

Sample prices:

	PLN	EUR	UK Pound	US Dollar
Beer	10	2.32	2	2.6
Mid Range meal	20 - 50	4.50 - 11.5	4 - 10	5.2 - 13.3
Museum ticket	10 - 20	2.30 - 4.60	2 - 4	2.6 - 5.2
Bus ticket	3 - 5	0.7 - 1.20	0.6 - 1.2	0.8 - 1.3

Cost saving tip: To exchange money, you have to look for "kantors". Avoid those in the city centre and at the airport. Or better yet, exchange (or withdraw) just a small amount of money (max 200 PLN) and pay the rest of your expenses with your card.

Tipping

10% is considered polite.

Cost saving tip: When you say “dziękuję” (thanks) after a meal, it may be interpreted as “keep the change”. Be aware of that.

Useful sites

OddUrbanThings.com

That’s us! Updated Weekend Guides, Tours, and more info.

WarsawTour.pl

Official Warsaw site.

Embassies

US Embassy

al. Ujazdowskie 29/31
+48 22 504 20 00
Open until 5:00 PM

Embassy of Canada

Matejki 1/5
+48 22 584 31 00
Open until 4:30 PM

British Embassy Warsaw

Kawalerii 12
+48 22 311 00 00
Open until 4:30 PM

Embassy of Italy

plac Dąbrowskiego 6
+48 22 826 34 71
Open until 12:00 PM

Embassy of India

Myśliwiecka 2
+48 22 540 00 00
Open until 5:30 PM

Phones & internet

The public telephones in Warsaw were recently removed. You are better off using an app like Skype, WhatsApp, Messenger, or Viber on your phone.

Internet access can be found virtually anywhere in the city centre, with free access in most cafés and bars (and always in hotels and

hostels).

It may be worthwhile to get a prepaid SIM card, especially to take advantage of the very cheap data transfer plans available in Poland (an easy way to do this would be to go to a shopping center and look for an “Orange” branch).

Toilets

Public toilets are scarce in Warsaw. Your best bet is to take advantage of the ones in the restaurants, cafés or museums you stop at or in major shopping malls.

Toilets at the train station and all metro stations are paid and the cost is usually 1 or 2 zloty.

Parks and open areas are usually equipped with mobile Public toilets called ToiToi (blue boxes, free of charge).

Electricity in Poland

In Poland, the power sockets are of type E. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Visitors from countries like the US, UK and Ireland will need plug adaptors.

European emergency number: 112

You can call the European emergency number for ANY kind of **emergency** and calls can be answered in many European languages.

You can call 112 even WITHOUT a SIM card.

Bank Holidays

Most shops, banks, schools and offices will be close on these days. Gas stations and some small shops will be open.

Also, shops are closed on most Sundays.

[Check out this calendar for more precise info.](#)



Tourist Info

Palace of Culture and Science

pl. Defilad 1 (entrance from Emilii Plater Street, between Kongresowa Hall and Museum of Technology)

e-mail: info@warsawtour.pl

Opening hours:

2 January - 30 April: 8 AM - 6 PM

4 May - 30 September: 8 AM - 7 PM

1 October - 31 December: 8 AM - 6 PM

Old Town

Rynek Starego Miasta 19/21/21a

Opening hours:

2 January - 30 April: 9 AM - 6 PM

4 May - 30 September: 9 AM - 8 PM

1 October do 31 December: 9 AM - 6 PM

Praga Koneser Centre

pl. Konesera 2

Opening hours:

2 January – 31 December: 11 AM – 7 PM



Health & Safety

Warsaw is [one of the safest capitals](#) in the world.

Violent crime is rare, generally confined to the dodgier suburban housing blocks or the dark tunnels of train stations. Pickpocketing is more prevalent in tourist areas and you should be especially carefull on buses and trams and around major tourist attractions. Still, nothing compared to other European cities where tourism is more intense.

The right bank's [Praga district](#) has a dangerous reputation, but its recent makeover as an art-sy culture centre has made it much safer than before.

Tap Water

Polish tap water is officially regarded as safe for drinking, but it's a good idea to buy your water bottled.

Healthcare

Health care services are quite cheap in Poland.

It is worth paying for private care instead of the national health system because private clinics are usually of a very high quality and quite cheap (moreover, in private clinics the staff will more likely speak English).

Over-the-counter medicines are sold only in pharmacies (called "apteka"). You can easily identify them as marked with a green cross.

Painkillers and vitamins can be bought inside most supermarkets.

Packing tips

Autumn/Winter:

The temperature in Warsaw in winter is around 0 degrees Celsius but can be as low as -20 Celsius. There will likely be snow from late November until March. You don't need to wear snow pants but good winter shoes are a must.

Early autumn can welcome you with pleasant temperatures, but you should prepare for the worst.

What you'll need:

- Warm jacket
- Good leather (or waterproof) shoes
- A good hat
- Gloves
- Thermal tights (also the locals are proud owners of these)
- Scarf
- Multiple layers of clothes to handle the indoor-outdoor temperature shock.

Summer/spring

Early spring and late summer can be chilly (early April and late August).

What you'll need:

- A jacket (just in case)
- Jumpers (pack some extra layers for the occasional chilly night)
- At least one pair of long pants
- Comfy airy shoes (sandals/flats) and sneakers
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Shorts, t-shirts etc
- Sunscreen.



Best time to visit Warsaw

The best time to visit Warsaw depends on what you value most as the city changes drastically along with the seasons.

- From May to August the weather is the best, with temperature around 20-25 degrees Celsius. During the warmest months there can be storms, but most days are dry.

- The months from November to February are really cold, but the city is fascinating thanks to its record-breaking Christmas decorations that can be found all over the city. The Old Town is the prettiest in these months, thanks to the massive Light Festival and the heart warming Christmas markets.

Although Warsaw gets really cold in winter, it is not humid and the cold can be handled easily with proper clothing.

Cheapest time to visit

Warsaw is quite cheap to visit all year around, so I wouldn't worry too much about the difference in costs.

The cheapest time to visit is late autumn (November) and winter, with the exception of the Christmas period. November is particularly good if you are on a budget, as all the Royal Residences are free to visit for the entire month.

Driving in Poland

Visitors driving a car in Poland must have reached the minimum ages laid down for residents of Poland even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence.

A valid European licence is accepted for stays up to 6 months.

International driving permits are recognised



but not compulsory.

Important documents:

When driving in Poland the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence*.
- Proof of insurance/green card (third party or above).
- Proof of ID (passport).
- Proof of ownership (V5C certificate).

While driving in Poland you are required by law to carry the following items:

- Warning triangle: Compulsory in every vehicle with 4 wheels or more.
- Headlamp beam deflectors: Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually.
- Lights: It is compulsory for all motor vehicles to use dipped headlights or daytime running lights, day and night, all year round.
- Motorcyclists or moped riders and their passengers, must wear a crash helmet at all times.

- Reflective jacket: Although it is not compulsory for foreign registered vehicles, foreign drivers renting a car in Poland will have to make sure the hired vehicle is fitted with a jacket.
- A fire extinguisher in your car.

Rules of the road and regulations

Overtaking and passing

Drive on the right, overtake on the left. A driver must show his intention to overtake or to change lanes by indicating with blinkers.

Overtaking is prohibited:

- In the face of oncoming traffic.
- At intersections.
- At bus or tram stops.
- At uncontrolled pedestrian and cycle crossings.
- At railway crossings.
- Where space does not permit overtaking without risk.

Trams must be overtaken on the right. Drivers may use the part of the road provided for



trams but they must free it as soon as a tram or other vehicle on rails approaches. At tram stops where there are no pedestrian islands, drivers should stop to allow passengers to walk safely between the tram and the pavement.

Priority

At the intersections of roads of equal importance, traffic from the right has priority, except in the case of vehicles on rails which take precedence over other traffic.

Vehicles already engaged in roundabout traffic have right of way over approaching vehicles.

At the approach of an emergency vehicle (police car, fire engine, ambulance) with the signals in action (flashing blue lights and two-tone siren), drivers should give way and make its passage as fast as possible.

Warning of approach

Use of the horn is forbidden in towns, except in cases of immediate danger.



Towing:

Caravans, camper vans and luggage trailers can be temporarily imported without customs documents. However the importer must have a list in duplicate of the contents in order to assist customs officers.

The following dimensions for vehicles with trailers must not be exceeded:

Height: 4m

Width: 2.55m

Overall length: 18.75m

Seat belts:

The wearing of seat belts is compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger of all vehicles travelling on hard surfaced roads, both inside and outside built-up areas. The wearing of rear seat belts is compulsory in vehicles which are equipped with belts at the rear.

Travelling with children:

Children under the age of 12 years old and less than 150cm in height must be restrained by a

seat belt adapted to their size or seated in a

	Motorway	Express road with 2x2 lanes	Express road with 2x1 lane	Dual carriageway	Other road
Private car, motorcycle, lorry up to 3.5 t	140 km/h	120 km/h	100 km/h	100 km/h	90 km/h
Car towing a trailer or caravan	80 km/h	80 km/h	80 km/h	80 km/h	70 km/h

special seat. If the car is equipped with airbags at the front, it is prohibited to place a child in a rear facing seat on the front passenger seat.

Speed limits:

In built-up areas the speed is split between the hours of 05:00 to 23:00 (50km/h) and 23:00 to 05:00 (60km/h) unless indicated by signs. In residential zones speed should be kept to 20 km/h.

Outside built-up areas:

Anti-radar equipment which interferes with specific radio frequencies to jam police signals is prohibited.



Enforcement of parking regulations

Wheel clamps are used in Poland.

Illegally parked cars causing an obstruction may be towed away and impounded at the expense of the owner.

In both cases the driver is subject to a fine.

Disabled parking access

Disabled motorists holding a disabled driver's card/badge are entitled to special parking concessions. They can park the vehicle in areas where parking is normally restricted or prohibited.

The disabled card/badge must be displayed behind the windscreen of the vehicle.

Traffic lights:

The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

Drink/drug driving:

The maximum level of alcohol in the blood per-

mitted is 0.02%. Every driver with more than 0.02% alcohol in the blood is considered incapable of driving any vehicle.

The police are empowered to carry out random breath tests. A test is compulsory in the case of a serious motoring offence or after an accident which has caused injury.

Availability of fuel

There are filling stations in all towns and large villages. Most are open from 08:00 to 19:00. In large towns and along international routes, stations are open 24 hours a day (including Sundays when other shops may be closed).

Means of payment

Visitors can buy petrol with PLN or pay by credit card.

Source: All information in this document is sourced from the AIT (Alliance Internationale de Tourisme) & the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) and, to the best of our knowledge, is correct at the time of publication (Feb 2019).

Do you need to rent a car?

Although there are several local companies operating in Poland, I suggest you head to [Rentalcars.com](https://rentalcars.com) because I have had a great experience with them in the past.

Trustworthy, good prices and a simple to use website.



POLISH TRAVEL PHRASEBOOK

General phrases

English	Polish	Pronunciation
Please	proszę	`prosheh`
Thank you	dziękuję	`dsyenkooyeh`
I'm sorry	przepraszam	`pshehpraasham`
Excuse me	przepraszam	`pshehpraasham`
Good morning	Dzień dobry	`dsyeni dobry`
Good afternoon	Dzień dobry	`dsyeni dobry`
Good evening	dobry wieczór	`dobry vyechoor`
Good night	dobranoc	`dobra notz`
Hi	cześć	`cheshch`
Bye	cześć	`cheshch`
See you	do widzenia	`doh vidsenya`
Yes	tak	`tahk`
No	nie	`nye`

Hotel

Bathroom	łazienka	`uazienka`
Check-in	zameldowanie	`zameldovanye`
Check-out	wymeldowanie	wymeldovanye
Reception desk	repcja	`rehtzeptzya`
Bellboy	boy hotelowy	`boy khotelovy`
Manager	kierownik	`kyerovnik`
Key	klucz	`klootch`

Dining Out

Restaurant	restauracja	`restaauratzya`
Table for two	stolik dla dwóch	`stolick dlah dvookh`
Table for four	stolik dla czterech osób	`stolick dlah chterekh osoob`
Waiter / waitress	kelner / kelnerka	`klener / kelnerka`
Lunch	obiad	`obyad`
Dinner	kolacja	`kolatsya`
Menu	menu	`menyi`
Wine	wino	`vhinoh`
Wine list	karta win	`karta vin`
Vegetarian dish	danie wegetarian- skie	`danye wegetary- anskyeh`

Shopping

Price	cena	`tzenah`
Do you accept credit cards?	Czy mogę zapłacić kartą?	`tchi mokeh zaplatsits kartom?`
How much for this?	ile to kosztuje?	`ileh toh ko-shtooye?`
I need a smaller size	potrzebuję mniejszy rozmiar	`potchebooyeh mnyyshee rozm-yar`.
Do you have other colors?	czy macie inne kolory?	`tchi matsye inneh kolory?`.

Travel

Airport	lotnisko	'lotnyiskoh'
Flight	lot	'lot'
Train	Pociąg	'pohtsionk'
Train station	dworzec kolejowy	'dvozhetz koleyo- vy'
Bus	autobus	'autoboos'
Bus station	dworzec autobu- sowy	'dvozhetz auto- boosovy'
Ticket office	kasa biletowa	'kasa beeletova'
One ticket to (Krakow)	bilet do (Krakowa)	'beelet doh (Krak- ova)'
Booking	rezerwacja	'rezervatzya'
Return ticket	bilet powrotny	'beelet povrotny'

Asking for directions

Street	ulica	'ulitsa'
Square	plac	'platz'
How can I get to...	jak mogę dojść do...	'yak mokeh doy- shch doh'
Bus / tram stop	przystanek auto- busowy / tramwa- jowy	pshistanek auto- boosovy / tram- vayovy
Right / left	prawo/lewo	'pravo / levo'

Nightlife

Cheers!	na zdrowie!	'pronounced 'nah zdrovyeh!'
One beer please	jedno piwo proszę	'yedno peevoh proskeh'
Can I smoke here?	czy można tu palić?	'tchi mohzhnah too paleetz?'
May I sit here?	czy mogę tu usiąść?	tchi moke too usi- yonshch?'
May I buy you a drink?	czy mogę postawić ci drinka?	'tchi moke postav- ich tsi drinka?'
My name is Andy	mam na imię Andy	'mam nah eemyeh Andy'
Shall we dance?	zatańczymy?	'zatanichimi?'
Let's go to my place	chodźmy do mnie	'khochmi doh mnye'

Other useful expressions

Where are the toi- lets?	gdzie jest toaleta?	'gdsie yest toale- ta?'
I don't speak Pol- ish	nie mówię po pol- sku	'nye moovyeh poh polskoo'
Please write it down	proszę to napisać	'proskeh toh nap- eesach'



Warsaw. An independent Guide to the city.

Odd Urban Things. First Edition 2019.

Sources

Icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

Driving in Poland: All information is sourced from the AIT (Alliance Internationale de Tourisme) & the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) and, to the best of the RAC's knowledge, is correct at the time of publication (May 2016).

Some images used in this book have been taken from Creative Commons websites with CCo licence.

The font used for the titles is the classic **NEWZEL-
EK**, the most popular typeface commonly used in advertising in communist Poland. It was designed by Bronisław Zelek in 1974.

