

# Warsaw

**inyour  
pocket**

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**Christmas in Warsaw** p.8

**Hala Koszyki: Warsaw's  
newest urban market** p.121

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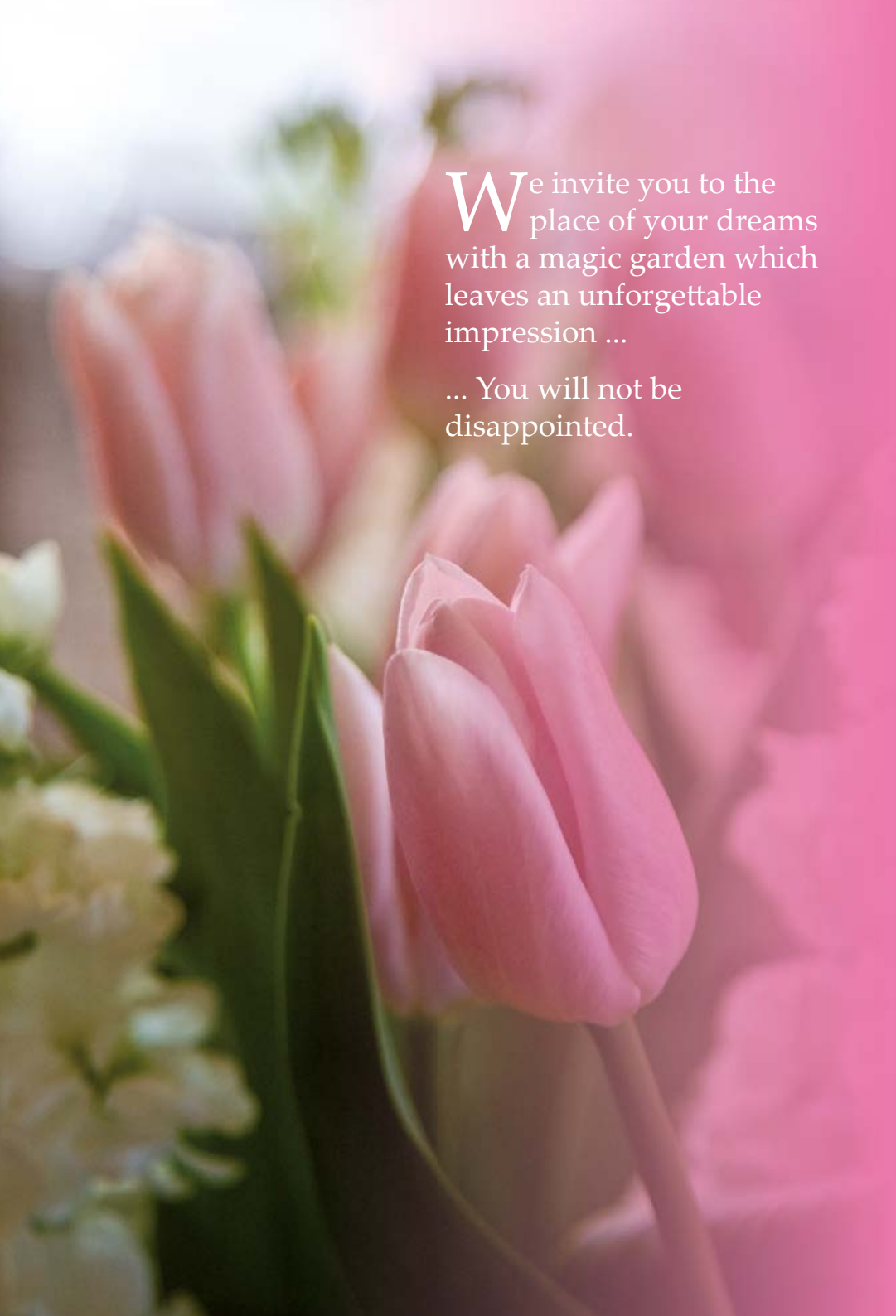


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# *Restauracja Polska* *Różana*

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Restaurant *Różana* is an elegant, cosy and unpretentious restaurant whose delicate and light Polish cuisine will surprise you with new flavours and specialties every day.

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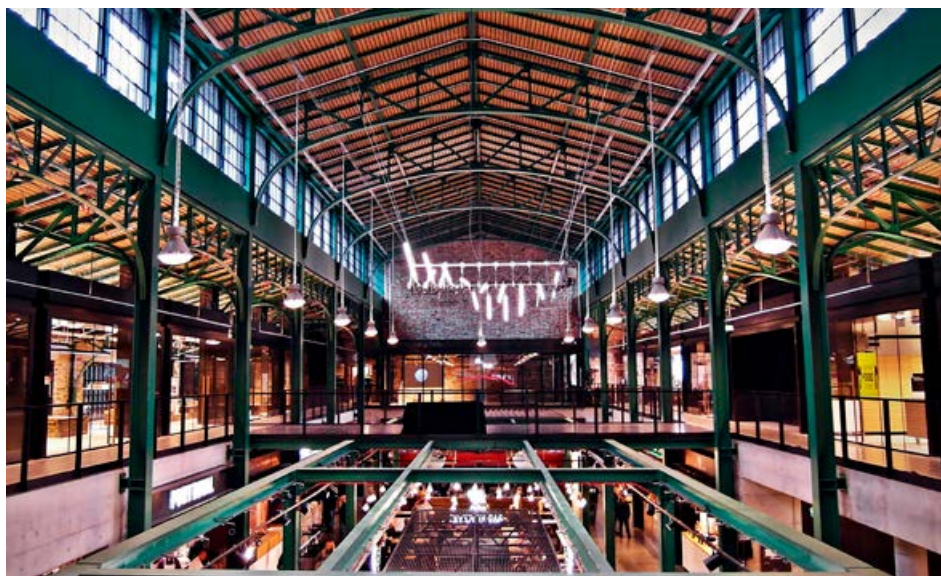
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The newly renovated Hala Koszyki awaits with open arms and vintage beams.



# Buddha

INDIAN RESTAURANT

Launched back in 2009 with the aim of bringing the rich flavours of the far east to Poland.

Buddha's refined menu, stylish interior, friendly service and elegant atmosphere have earned it a reputation as one of Warsaw's top restaurants. Buddha restaurant is ideal for a family meal, romantic dinner or a business meeting.



The restaurant is easy to get to, located on Nowy Świat 23, part of the historical Royal Route leading to the Old Town.

Buddha Indian Restaurant  
ul. Nowy Świat 23, tel. 22 826 35 01  
[www.buddha.info.pl](http://www.buddha.info.pl)



## Foreword

It is indeed the most wonderful time of the year here in wintry Warsaw. The first snowflakes have already licked the eyelids of many a Varsovian and City Hall has once again outdone itself with their tree trimming and hall decking. The holiday season of course brings with it a flurry of events, concerts, celebrations and religious celebrations. Poles take Christmas extremely seriously and the main event actually goes down on Christmas Eve when families gather around the table to a 12-course meatless feast featuring all sorts of delicious dishes from fishes. Read more about Polish Christmas traditions and where to find the best Christmas shopping starting on page 8.

New Year's Eve is another story altogether and it just happens to share its name with a certain American action movie star (Sylwester!). Warsaw will be bursting at the seams with private parties, gaudy galas and packed public spectacles of the fireworks and popstar variety. Check page 10 for all of IYP's New Years Eve recommendations. Let us know how you enjoyed the holiday in Warsaw on our Facebook page ([/warsawinyourpocket.com](http://warsawinyourpocket.com)) or just good old-fashioned email: [editor\\_poland@inyourpocket.com](mailto:editor_poland@inyourpocket.com).

### A CLOSER LOOK

Two of the best parts of the holiday season are eating and shopping! There's no better place to do both than in the newly opened and uber trendy Hala Koszyki. Read all about what treasures await you in this fully renovated and utterly glorious Secessionist Urban Market on page 121.



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# The best view of Warsaw

COSMOPOLITAN  
TWARDA 4

**Cosmopolitan Twarda 4** is a modern, prestigious building, residents of which can enjoy upscale apartments. This is the only edifice of such kind in Warsaw accessible right now!

Cosmopolitan Twarda 4 represents a brand new approach to residence purchase. The apartments are handed down with top quality interior finishing. The designers focused on the comfort of future residents, unmatched quality of materials and creating a timeless elevation. Classy interiors and well thought-through finishing highlight the spaciousness of the apartments. Breath-taking window views make for an extra advantage. They perfectly complement the apartments' atmosphere and allow you to observe city life from a distant perspective. Each room is equipped with tilt in windows that are rare in the edifices of such class and height.

The apartments will fulfil the expectations of even the most demanding residents. The lodgers have 24/7 access to assistance offered by a concierge, who is ready to help them with their every day tasks, as well as with the realisation of non-standard assignments. The service is available via the HMS intelligent apartment management system, which allows you also to control air conditioning, lighting, blinds or TV. On the fourth floor of the edifice the residents will find an exclusive relaxation area. Besides a fitness zone, the area features as well private and business meeting rooms. On the ground floor there are several concept restaurants that open the building to the city with its inhabitants. That makes Cosmopolitan Twarda 4 a common space for all the lovers of style and unusual solutions.







© Tokarsky, istockphoto.com

# Christmas in Warsaw

Christmas always seems a bit more 'Christmasy' to us when it comes with both a bit of good old-fashioned tradition and a wintry climate in which to enjoy it. And we're clearly not the only ones, as demonstrated by the insistence of filmmakers to conjure up snow-dusted streets in places like the UK (think *Love Actually*, etc.) at Christmas time, when in reality a 'white Christmas' in places like London comes around only once in a blue moon. If that's what you're after, welcome to Poland, where a snowy 'święta' (holiday) is almost guaranteed and there's a full calendar of holiday customs and traditions (most of them Catholic in character, of course) that will surely make your experience here a unique, and even at times completely foreign one. We help you get into the local spirit by detailing them below, so you'll be well-read and ready when you find yourself smitten in mittens beneath the mistletoe.

## ADVENT

In contrast to western coca-cola cultures, Christmas in Poland is not a shameless celebration of consumerism. Here, the holiday season doesn't kick off with slashed prices and stampedes outside department stores, but rather a sobering 24-day period known locally as '**Adwent**' - **beginning November 27th** - during which Poles are expected to spiritually prepare for Christ's coming by refraining from indulgences like partying, dancing and drinking, are encouraged to help the less fortunate, and, of course, to attend Catholic mass as much as possible. Poland really puts the 'Christ' in Christmas; here 'capturing the holiday spirit' traditionally denotes an embodiment of Christian ideals.

## SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

With Christmas Day reserved for family and busy with the celebration of Christ, seasonal gift-giving chores have been mostly out-sourced to Saint Nicholas (*Święty Mikołaj*) who unofficially gets the holiday season started when he comes three weeks earlier on **December 6th** - '**Dzień Świętego Mikołaja**', or Saint Nicholas Day. In Polish tradition, Ol' Saint Nick isn't a portly pipe-smoker who lives at the North Pole, but an actual dignified saint who comes down from heaven in a rather regal purple and gold robe and bishop's hat, carrying a crosier on the anniversary of his death. On the 6th, Polish children awake to discover Mikołaj's good graces with a gift under their pillow or next to the bed. In northern PL, December 5th sees children cleaning their shoes and leaving them by the door or window to await St. Nick's, who fills them with sweets and candy.

By the first weekend in December, Warsaw will have pulled all its best 'abracadabra' tricks and illusions to turn itself into a winter wonderland, with decorations along all the major promenades and no less than three **Christmas markets** around the city centre (see side bar).

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**December 24th** - or '**Wigilia**' as it's called in PL - is one of the biggest feast days of the year and an important time to be with family. As such, though Wigilia is not a work holiday you can expect virtually every shop in Poland to close early and stay closed until the 27th, so arrange accordingly. Once evening begins to fall it's tradition that those gathered to eat the vigil feast together first share the blessed Christmas wafer, called *opłatek*. In an intimate (and potentially awkward if you don't speak Polish) moment, each person goes to the others in turn, making a blessing for their happiness in the coming year, breaking off a piece of the other person's wafer and eating it, then sealing the deal with a kiss (or three) on the cheek. Once that formality is out of the way, and the kids have spotted the first star in the sky, the feast can officially begin. Traditionally, bits of hay are spread beneath the tablecloth in honour of Jesus' manger pedigree, and an extra place is set at the table in case of a visit by the 'hungry

## CHRISTMAS FAIRS & EVENTS



### 28.11 - 08.01 » CHRISTMAS FAIR AT THE BARBICAN

It's that time of year again... let the Christmas markets spring up like deranged candy-cane-striped mushrooms. You know the deal: there will be cute regional crafts (souvenir shopping!), gingerbread, mulled wine and mulled beer, wintertime snacks and gifts and contests. ► **F-4, The Barbican, Between ul. Rycerska and ul. Podwale, Open 11:00 - 20:00; Fri, Sat 11:00 - 21:30.**

### 25.10 - 23.12 » CHRISTMAS FAIR IN WOLA

Wola is the most dynamic and developing district of Warsaw and is becoming an increasingly attractive destination for both locals and Foreigners. With great pleasure, the administration of the district invites all to take part in the spirit of the traditional Christmas fair. The spirit of the season will be celebrated with an abundance of wooden-housed markets, regional delights, mulled wine, small gifts, children's games, and a beautiful nativity scene. ► [www.jarmarkbozonarodzeniowy.org](http://www.jarmarkbozonarodzeniowy.org). Open 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon.


### 04.12 12:00 » SANTA CLAUS RUN

Themed runs seem to be catching on in Poland, even in the not-so-outdoorsy season. Hence, the Santa Claus Run - a 10K charity jog around the Służewiec Racecourse by participants donning Santa headgear (appropriately organised on Saint Nicholas Day, a gift-giving day in Poland). For each kilometer ran by the participants, sponsors will donate one złoty to children's NGO's. The starter pack includes a Santa hat, start number, medal for participation (yes, it's *that* kind of event), and sack with surprise gifts from the organisers. ► **Służewiec Racecourse, ul. Puławska 266 (Mokotów), Registration fee 49-100zł, [www.biegmikolajow.org](http://www.biegmikolajow.org).**


# Christmas in Warsaw

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES

### 31.12 » NYE AT COCTAIL BAR MAX & DOM WHISKY

The Cocktail Bar Max will remain open throughout the night, and you can get in for free. Loud music, drinks, and the usual party atmosphere though the place will most likely be jam packed. ► **G-9, Coctail Bar Max & Dom Whisky**, ul. Krucza 16/22,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 691 71 00 00, Admission free, [www.barmax.pl](http://www.barmax.pl).

### 31.12 20:00 » NYE GALA AT SHEESHA LOUNGE

Spend a laidback New Year's Eve in Sheesha Lounge entertained by belly dancers and live darbuka (goblet drum) playing, plus a DJ. The kitchen will be open and the shisha pipes will be bubbling. Party starts at 20:00 and reservations are recommended; prices vary from 50zł and up based on table. ► **G-8, Sheesha Lounge**, Al. Jerozolimskie 33,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 828 25 25, [www.sheesha.pl](http://www.sheesha.pl).

### 31.12 » NYE ON PLAC DEFILAD

The capital's annual New Year's Eve gala will be held this year on Plac Defilad near the Palace of Culture & Science. Broadcast on national TV, this is basically PL's Super Bowl halftime show, involving an unbelievably complex stage set-up and short sets by the biggest national pop stars of the day. The logical back-up plan for anyone who failed to make other plans, yes, it will be crazy crowded, and yes, you may be showered in booze and glass at the stroke of midnight, but this will be the penultimate 'I spent New Year's Eve in Warsaw' experience. Plus, it's free. Headliners were yet to be announced at press time.

### 31.12 20:00 » NYE AT HARD ROCK CAFE

Rock in the New Year at Warsaw's iconic Hard Rock Cafe. Expect an all-night party with dancing and DJs, plus the HRC's classic menu of southern-inspired American bar eats and cocktails. Book a table in advance or just hang-out at the bar. 50zł gains you all-night entrance and a welcome drink. Party starts at 20:00. ► **E-8, Hard Rock Cafe**, ul. Żłota 59 (Żłote Tarasy),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00.

### 31.12 21:00 » NYE AT THE VIEW WARSAW

The coolest NYE party in Warszawa. Two levels: floor 28 and the rooftop, where you can spend NYE 122 meters above ground and watch fireworks around the city. 2 types of music, mash-up and house, along with dancers and confetti. Special guests include DJ Michael Canitrot (France), K-Leah (vocal), Dharni (Beatbox/Singapore). Advance tickets are 150zł and 200zł day of and price includes finger food, a glass of Prosecco at midnight and access to both floors. ► **E-7, The View Warsaw**, ul. Twarda 18,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 663 97 19 42,

traveller, Baby Jesus himself or a deceased relative (whoever arrives first). Dinner consists of a gut-busting twelve courses – one for each of Jesus' disciples – and because it's meant to be meatless, the main dish is traditionally carp, which apparently isn't recognised as meat by Catholics (fish was Jesus' favourite vegetable). In the days before Wigilia, large pools of carp – half writhing, half floating belly-up – can be found on the city's squares waiting to be purchased and brought home to the family bathtub where they are kept until it's time for the man of the house to carve the carp and serve it cold. 'Smacznego' (Bon Appetit). Other traditional dishes include żurek and barszcz – the traditional soups, poppy-seed pastries, herring in oil, pickles and an assortment of other Polish salads and sides. The meal concludes with a round of belt-unbuckling, carol-singing and gift-unwrapping after the revelation that during the feast an angel has laid presents beneath the Christmas tree (St. Nick also gets an off-day for Wigilia). Alcoholic abstinence is the Wigila tradition most commonly overlooked, however, at midnight, most families head out in the cold to attend pasterka, or midnight mass. It's at this magical time that many believe animals are able to take on human voices.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

After morning mass, **December 25th** is reserved for visiting family and friends and a continuation of feasting (this time including meat and alcohol). While Christmas Day holds less importance and symbolism for Poles than Christmas Eve, it is still a public holiday and a time for family. Despite the gradual moves by many, particularly the younger generation, away from the Catholic church in recent years, Christmas is still viewed with more religious significance than you might expect in your own country and even those who might not attend mass on a regular basis still respect the traditions of the holiday period. As such, you can expect the vast majority of bars and restaurants to be closed on Christmas Day and the Second Day of Christmas (December 26th), though some businesses are beginning to break this Catholic code of conduct. In fact, in the capital you'll find many popular ex-pat haunts like Legends open as usual, even on this holiest of holies, with sports streaming live from the tube. Many of Warsaw's finer hotels offer full Christmas dinners in their restaurants, and some will even deliver them to your door.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

**December 31st** is known locally as **Sylwester**, and on this last night of the year almost every bar, club, restaurant and hotel in Warsaw will be hosting an all-night New Year's Eve bash. Unfortunately, you have to pay to play and it's wise to plan where you want to spend your evening ahead of time since expensive tickets are required to enter most venues, and therefore pub crawling is not really an option. In our Events section we offer a cursory list of **New Year's Eve parties**, but your celebratory options are literally limitless; make sure you do the work of finding something that will suit you and your friends.



# Lilou

Boutique - Atelier

## Symbols of precious moments

Lilou is an upscale polish jewelry brand created by Magdalena Mousson-Lestang. Lilou's philosophy is to create unique, engraved jewelry, customized and customizable to mark events, small and big stories of your life, emotions or simply to please or be pleased. Real caskets in terms of architecture, Lilou Boutique - Atelier are warm and inviting stores where engraving is hand-made on demand.

Lilou jewelry is made of 14k gold, 925 silver or 23 k. plated-gold, and can be accessorized with strings, ribbons, leather bracelets and precious stones, crystals and pearls.

Mark stories of your life by creating unique, engraved jewelry.



**WARSZAWA**, 63 Mokotowska Street  
27 Francuska Street

[lilouparis.com](http://lilouparis.com)



[/bemylilou](https://www.facebook.com/bemylilou)



[/bemylilou](https://www.instagram.com/bemylilou)



*By Bus or By Car, Warsaw is Poland's most navigable city by far.*

## BY TRAIN

### WARSZAWA CENTRALNA TRAIN STATION

**Warsaw Central Station** (Warszawa Centralna) is exactly what it says on the tin: central. And thanks to recent renovations, we're happy to say it's now easier to navigate as well. Once you alight from your train, take one of the two facing escalators in the centre of the platform, which will lead you up into one of the underground passages that flank the main hall. Whichever side you come up on you will be one level below ground level and the ticket hall. Kantors can be found in the underground passageway between Centralna and the **Marriott**. Signs for ATMs (bankomats) are everywhere, and though once sparse the machines can be spotted at almost every turn.

Tourist info can be found across the street at the **Palace of Culture** - just look for the 'i' sign (open 08:00 - 18:00). They can provide you with maps, etc. Tickets for the public transport system can be bought from most of the newspaper kiosks. Left luggage is located in the underground corridor that runs below the main hall. Look for *Przechowalnia Bagażu*, where stewards will look after your bag, or opt for one of the plentiful lockers. Connect to a Polish network via mobile by getting SIM and pre-paid cards from the same newsagents.

Both entrances of the main hall are covered by taxi ranks, and by passing via tunnels under the main road you'll find bus and tram stops though once you enter, the signs are more of a hindrance than a help and you may never be seen or heard of again. Officially sanctioned **ELE** taxis can be found at the rank on Aleje Jerozolimskie and **SAWA** taxis can be found rank on the **Złote Tarasy** side.

On the ground level there is a travel office run by Polish rail. Find it on the Złote Tarasy side of the building to the right of the stairs heading down to the platforms under

the *Centrum Obsługi Klienta* sign (info line 197 57, [www.intercity.pl](http://www.intercity.pl)). Open from 09:10 - 20:30, the multi-lingual staff (they can even assist the deaf) can search for the cheapest/easiest connection, sell you international and domestic tickets, and can help plan your trip for you. There is a new info point called **InfoDworzec** open 07:00 - 21:00 which offers more general tourist info.

The selection of outlets selling food and drink at Centralna has improved dramatically with the renovations. There are all kinds of local and international coffee joints, fast food chains and kebab shops to grab a quick bite or pass some time. If you have a lot of time to kill, **Champions** in the Marriott can be reached via the underground passageway and offers a far better place to sit and wait than the station itself, as does the nearby Złote Tarasy shopping centre. Don't be alarmed to find Warszawa Centralna used as a drop-in centre by Warsaw's homeless population - while most are harmless some like to pass their time being drunk and abusive. Bizarrely, while the Polish rail staff manning the ticket booths are mono-lingual, the tramps in Centralna seem adept at begging in a multitude of tongues. ► E-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 54, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones). Open 24hrs. Note that due to system maintenance seat reservations cannot be made between 24:00 - 01:00.

### WARSZAWA WSCHODNIA TRAIN STATION

► L-3, ul. Kijowska 20, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones). Open 24hrs. Note that due to system maintenance seat reservations cannot be made between 24:00 - 01:00.

### WARSZAWA ZACHODNIA TRAIN STATION

► F-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 142, tel. (+48) 22 39 19 757 (from foreign mobile phones). Open 24hrs.

## BY PLANE

### WARSAW CHOPIN AIRPORT

Warsaw Chopin Airport has recently seen the opening of Zone CDE, a glass and steel giant that sits rather awkwardly next to the newly renovated Zone AB. Both Zones AB and CDE have a wealth of shops, restaurants, tourist and public transport (ZTM) info, ATM machines, fast food (McDonald's!), car rental offices, exchange offices etc. and they are collectively called Terminal A. A new viewing platform has recently opened and is free from 06:00 - 22:00 and located near the entrance to the train platform.

The taxi rank outside exits 1 and 2 offers three certified companies: Super Taxi, Sawa Taxi and Ele Taxi. The 15-30 minute ride to the centre costs around 35-50zł, though be on guard for unlicensed sharks who will try to charge three or four times that. After hearing several complaints, we suggest agreeing on the price with your driver before setting off. Cheapskates can catch the brand new train into the city or get bus number 175.

The train station can be found underground by turning right outside of whichever arrivals area you leave from and going all the way to the end of the covered section where you will find escalators taking you down to ticket booths. The SKM trains run several times an hour and are red and white in colour. Line S2 takes you to Śródmieście station in the city centre and runs twice an hour, while line S3 takes you to Warszawa Centralna station and runs once an hour. To take one of these trains you need a normal public transport ticket (exactly the same as what you'd use for the bus) that are available from the ticket booths and cost 4.40zł. The KM trains run once per hour, are green and white, and will take you to Centralna. They have their own ticket office at the station with a fixed price of 6.80zł, but you can use an SKM ticket here as long as you have the train driver validate it. They also have a new ticket available which covers your transfer from Chopin to Modlin Airport and also gives you 60 minutes travel in the first zone of ZTM (17zł). The train ride to the centre should take around 20 minutes. Bus stops can be found in front of arrivals at Zone AB and Zone CDE. Buses run frequently between 04:28 and 22:58 with journey time taking approximately 25 minutes. At night when the 175 stops running travellers can take the N32 night bus, which runs every 30 minutes.

► ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1, tel. (+48) 22 650 42 20, [www.lotnisko-chopina.pl](http://www.lotnisko-chopina.pl).

### WARSAW-MODLIN AIRPORT

The new Modlin Airport looks like a shiny overturned tin can nestled in a forest in the middle of nowhere, though the architects may beg to differ. This is one of the biggest cheap airline hubs in Poland and **RyanAir** currently operates 43 connections across Europe here.

The interior is clean, modern and well-equipped to handle international travellers with plenty of prominent signage. Inside the arrival and departure halls you'll find all the services you could want, including numerous ATMs (bankomat), an information desk, free wifi, two currency exchange points (kantor), a pharmacy, tour operators

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS

### MODLIN BUS

Modlin Bus offers transfers from Modlin Airport to the centre of Warsaw (with drop-offs at Dworzec Zachodni (D-4), the Palace of Culture (F-3), Metro Młociny, Chopin Airport and more), as well as travel onward to Łódź. Tickets start at 9zł if you book ahead online; at their well-marked desk near the airport's exit you'll pay 28-33zł (depending where you intend to get off). All buses are equipped with wi-fi. ► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 290 50 90, [www.modlinbus.com](http://www.modlinbus.com).

### SHUTTLE24

This door-to-door transfer service whisks you from Modlin Airport or Chopin Airport to wherever you want to go in Warsaw, or vice versa. Look for the driver holding a card with your name at Arrivals, and enjoy private vehicles, shared transport and group transfers at competitive prices with English speaking drivers. Starting from 25zł/person, the prices are more than reasonable, and they are open to negotiate the total. Book your transfer by phone, by email or by filling out a special form on their slick website. ► F-8, tel. (+48) 698 33 99 33, [shuttle24.pl/en](http://shuttle24.pl/en).

### WARSAW SHUTTLE

This company offers private airport transfer services at competitive prices from 89zł and up, depending on the size of your group. Call in advance to book or book online. ► F-8, tel. (+48) 506 17 54 95, [www.warsawshuttle.com](http://www.warsawshuttle.com).

(Exim Tours, Start Holidays and Ecco Holiday), shops of all shapes and sizes, two playgrounds, vending machines, a dozen restaurants (including a grill, tapas bar, a pizza place, a bar and a wine bar) a VIP zone and eight car rental companies.

Those looking to end up in Warsaw's city centre have three main options for transport: grab a cab or private shuttle, take a bus to the capital, or board one of the green and yellow shuttles that will take you to **Modlin Train Station** where you then take a train to your destination. The Koleje Mazowieckie train route is economical (17zł total for shuttle and train), though slightly time consuming (50 minutes total); buy a ticket from one of their stands located in the baggage hall or at Arrivals near the exit doors. Of the many bus transfer services (a full range of which you'll find on our website), **Modlin Bus** is the most comfortable and convenient; tickets range from 9zł (if booked ahead at [modlinbus.com](http://modlinbus.com)) to 33zł (at the airport - look for their stand in the baggage hall or near the Arrivals terminal exit). If money isn't an option, the airport's official taxi partners **Sawa Taxi** and **Taxi Modlin** offer transport to the city centre from 159zł (199zł between 24:00 and 06:00). ► ul. Gen. Wiktora Thommée 1A, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, tel. (+48) 22 315 18 80, [www.modlinairport.pl](http://www.modlinairport.pl).



# Arrival & Transport

## TRAIN SMARTS

The Polish rail network is generally in decent shape even if the rolling stock is a bit outdated. By and large, you'll find most trains run on time, are cheap, and don't crash, which is all you can really ask for. Travelling times are generally pretty slow, even on Intercity trains, due to limited high-speed sections of track throughout the country. While that is slowly being remedied, it also frequently causes increased travel times on many lines. Tickets are very cheap by western standards, with a first-class ticket from Kraków to Warsaw running about 170zł (about €40).

The state-owned Polish rail network PKP run several types of train, which basically determine the length of the journey, its comfort and cost. Express InterCity Premium (EIP) is the best there is, but Express InterCity (EIC) and InterCity (IC) trains are also fast and comfortable, giving you an assigned seat for the extra money. Cheapskates looking to cut costs can opt for the markedly cheaper *Twoje Linie Kolejowe* (TLK) - older rolling stock with no seat reservations; these trains are best suited for travelling to small towns the better trains don't offer service to, and while of course you'll pay less, the journey will most certainly take longer and likely try your good humour with the potential for overcrowding and being forced to sit or stand in the aisle.

For more information on train times and prices check the very useful [www.rozklad-pkp.pl](http://www.rozklad-pkp.pl), which has an English option. There you can book a ticket without the hassle of queuing at the station.

If you find yourself faced with long queues in the train station then you'll be pleased to hear you can hop on most trains (except EIP) and buy a ticket direct from the conductor. You'll pay a small surcharge for this (approx. 15zł), and credit cards are now accepted. Travellers are expected to greet others in their compartment with a curt 'dzień dobry'; and it is taken as given that male passengers will help females or the elderly with any heavy baggage.

Those travelling by train should hold no fear, though you may have the misfortune of sharing a compartment with a woman who has no qualms with silencing errant children with a thump to the head. Or even worse, sharing a compartment with rowdy army discharges or football fans on their way to or from a match. Upgrading to first class for a cursory fee is usually enough to avoid these pitfalls.

Arrivals	<i>Przyjazdy</i>
Departures	<i>Odjazdy</i>
Platform	<i>Peron</i>

## BY CAR

Warsaw is located in the heart of the country and has extensive road links with other major Polish cities. Having said that the competition on the road's front isn't fierce. Roads leading into Warsaw tend to be of decent dual carriageway standard, though once you enter the city limits Warsaw traffic can become a serious problem - particularly during the week. Most major hotels are located in the central area and you should be heading in most cases for the Central Train Station (Dworzec Warszawa Centralna) and its neighbour, the Palace of Culture (PKiN). Parking in the central area is generally available on-street where there are standard parking charges payable at roadside machines. Most major hotels will offer some form of off-road guarded parking. Be warned that Polish roads and Polish drivers are not the best especially if you have driven in western Europe.


Indeed, Poland is one of Europe's leading nations in road fatalities, a statistic that will surprise few who have had the pleasure of using the roads here. A lethal combination of poor road surfaces, networks unsuited to the volume of different traffic and, most of all, drivers who have no consideration for anybody else result in the common sight of mangled car wrecks around the country. Police seem unwilling to control irresponsible driving, and don't be surprised to see cars shooting through red lights, cutting each other up and staking a claim for the Formula 1 championship.

The speed limit is **50km/hr** in cities (**60km/hr** between 23:00 and 05:00), **90km/hr** outside urban areas, **120km/hr** on dual carriageways and **140km/hr** on motorways. Seat belts must be worn at all times and it is illegal for drivers to use hand-held mobile phones. Following the letter of the law all cars should be equipped with a first aid kit, warning triangle, fire extinguisher, rear mud flaps and right and left hand outside mirrors. Flouting the rules will cost you 200zł (for using a mobile), 100zł (not wearing a seat belt) and up to 1520zł for speeding! The legal limit for drink driving is **0.2% blood/alcohol level**. Put simply, if you're driving, don't drink.

EU citizens may use their home driving licenses as long as they are valid, however citizens of countries that didn't ratify the Vienna Convention (tsk, tsk Australia and America) will find their licenses invalid (though that hasn't stopped anyone we know from driving their girlfriend's car). Carry your license and passport at all times when driving.

Since April 2007 it has been compulsory for headlights to be switched on at all times.

### GUARDED PARKING

Guarded Parking actually means supervised CC video surveillance. ► F-6, ul. Królewska 11 (Sofitel Warsaw Victoria Hotel),  Nowy Świat-Universytet.

## CAR RENTAL

**AVIS**® Avis provide short-term and long-term rentals, chauffeur drive service as well as cargo van rentals. There's over 1,000 models available, equipped with air-conditioning, air bags and ABS for your guaranteed comfort and safety. It's possible to exchange and swap cars plus they have a new "meeting point" where you can pick up a car in the center at Al. Jerozolimskie 54 open Mon-Sat 06:00 - 23:30. Also at Modlin Airport (ul. Gen. Wiktora Thommee 1A), Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79 (E-9, Marriott Hotel) and ul. Łopuszańska 12A (Włochy). ▶ **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport)**, tel. (+48) 22 650 48 72, [www.avis.pl](http://www.avis.pl). Open 06:00 - 23:30.

**BUDGET** ▶ **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport)**, tel. (+48) 22 650 40 62, [www.budget.pl](http://www.budget.pl). Open 07:00 - 22:00.

**EUROPCAR** ▶ **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport)**, tel. (+48) 22 650 25 64, [www.eurocar.pl](http://www.eurocar.pl). Open 07:00 - 23:00.



A wide range of cars and makes including BMW, Skoda, Kia, Opel and Nissan.

All cars are equipped with power steering. Satellite navigation systems are also available. Special rates offered to those who order through the Joka website.

▶ **B-5, ul. Okopowa 47**, tel. (+48) 609 18 10 20, [www.joka.com.pl](http://www.joka.com.pl). Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun. Outside of these hours open on request.

**HERTZ** ▶ **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport)**, tel. (+48) 22 650 28 96, [www.hertz.com.pl](http://www.hertz.com.pl). Open 07:00 - 23:00.

### SCOOTER RENTAL

Warsaw's newest Scooter Rental offers a large selection of sporty and stylish rides for beginners and experts. Their expert staff will help you pick out the right ride. Best to book in advance and secure a pickup time as they might be out of the office in the off season (call the listed number if that's the case). ▶ **G-8, ul. Nowogrodzka 22, [M] Centrum**, tel. (+48) 690 99 77 60, [www.skutery-centrum.pl](http://www.skutery-centrum.pl). Open 07:30 - 19:30.

### SIXT

One of the world's largest and oldest car rental companies offers a choice of solutions from short and long rental periods to holiday cars. There's even a fleet of limousines if you're interested. Vehicles range from Seats to luxury Mercedes. Bonuses include GPS and Sixt cards. Also at ul. Emilii Plater 49 (E-8, InterContinental Hotel). ▶ **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport)**, tel. (+48) 22 650 20 31, [www.sixt.pl](http://www.sixt.pl). Open 07:00 - 23:30, Sat 07:00 - 22:00, Sun 08:00 - 23:00.



## SPECIAL WEEKEND OFFER FOR YOUR CAR RENTAL.

ESCAPE THE CITY TRAFFIC,  
GET ON THE OPEN ROAD  
AND EXPLORE POLAND  
WITH GREAT CAR RENTAL

CONTACT:  
tel: +48 22 572 65 65  
[www.avis.pl](http://www.avis.pl)

**AVIS**

## METRO-MORPHOSIS



Tentative construction of a Warsaw metro system first began in 1938 and was spearheaded by the forward thinking mayor Stefan Starzyński. The first line finally opened for business a whopping sixty years later in 1995! To be fair, engineers and designers had a lot to deal with in the interim, namely the ravages of the second world war and the perils and trials of communism. Plans for an underground system had originally been discussed as early as 1918, but the depression saw all preparations shelved. Starzyński was the first to raise the metro from the dead, and work on both the North-South and East-West lines began in 1938.

Originally projected to open in the mid-1940s, the outbreak of WWII put an end to those ambitions. Peace time and then communism brought a change in priorities. City planners were called to create a super-deep underground system, primarily to allow for Soviet swift troop movements below the city. By 1953 over 700 metres of tunnels had been carved underground but the death of Comrade Stalin saw all works abandoned. Finally, in 1995, a North-South line consisting of 11 stations and rolling stock donated by Russia was opened.


The second line finally opened in March 2015 to much fanfare. Although it is currently comprised of only 7 stations, it connects the radically different Eastern and Western sides of the city that the Vistula and history have divided. For commuters and every-day varsovians the second line changes their daily routine and offers much faster and more convenient connections. For tourists, it will act as a main artery as many of the city's most interesting attractions and museums are adjacent to each sparkling new station. The city made a lot of bold decisions with respect to the overall architectural planning as well as the look, lighting design and colors of each new station. Polish Artist Wojciech Fangor was tapped to design the artwork, color scheme and characteristic fonts used in each station and the effects are truly stunning.

Today the first line of the metro now currently spans 21 stops across the North-South axis of the capital and it intersects the brand new second line at the pivotal (and somewhat poetic) *Świętokrzyska* (Sacred Cross) station. There are already plans in place to expand the second line further East and West respectively and even talk of a third line in the future. For now, we suggest punching your ticket, clutching your camera and exploring the brilliant modernist underworld that is Warsaw's second Metro line.

## BY BUS

If you come to Warsaw by bus, odds are you'll be landing at the main bus station on Al. Jerozolimskie, while budget options like PolskiBus drop passengers off a short distance from Metro Młociny.

### MAIN BUS STATION

Coaches arrive and depart – unless otherwise stated – from the Warsaw West Bus Station (Dworzec Autobusowy Warszawa Zachodnia). Find a currency exchange and two ATM (bankomat) machines located in the main hall. There is no Tourist Info point, for the closest you'll have to make the journey into the Palace of Culture, Pl. Defilad 1 (entrance from ul. Emilii Plater). There's a legitimate left-luggage operation, a travel agency and a nursing mother's lounge as well as five payphones (remember those) located in one of the side corridors (though you'll need to buy phone cards to use them). You can do that by visiting one of the Relay kiosks in the main hall. You'll also be able to buy SIM cards, prepaid cards and transport cards from here. Taxis to the centre run between 20-30zł (refuse a lift from any of the smiling unlicensed operators who offer you a lift). The bus running to the centre is found right across a busy highway and getting there is an adventure in itself seeing there are no signposts in the subway leading there. Basically from the main hall duck down under the sign saying Dworzec PKP, head down the stairs, turn right, follow the corridor to its conclusion, turn right again – you'll see two stairwells leading to the surface. Take the left one and presto, there's your bus stop. Confused? Not half as much as we were. Good work Warsaw. To get to Central Station take bus number 127,158 or 517. At night you'll be needing and N35 or N85. The journey takes approximately 15 minutes so buy a 3,40zł ticket valid for 20 minutes. Remember to validate your ticket on boarding. ► **D-4, Al. Jerozolimskie 144, tel. (+48) 708 20 88 88, [www.dworzeconline.pl](http://www.dworzeconline.pl). Ticket office open 05:30 - 22:00.** 

### POLSKIBUS

Note that the Warsaw-Gdańsk route leaves from Metro Młociny. ► **ul. Kasprzowicza 145 (Dworzec Autobusowy Metro Młociny, stance 1), [www.polskibus.com](http://www.polskibus.com).**

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Warsaw has an extensive bus and tram system criss-crossing the city as well as a good metro system running from north to south and a second line that opened in March 2015 running east to west. Over 1,500 buses operate in and around the city, and most run from between 05:00 and 23:00. After that night buses run on most routes twice every hour. All night buses display the letter N, followed by a two digit number. 'Fast buses' (marked with red digits) skip the smaller stops.

**Tickets** (all valid for use on metro, bus and tram) can be bought from some kiosks bearing the green and yellow RUCH logo, or anywhere with a sign reading **Bilety**. There are now also a series of ticket machines with instructions in English dotted around the city, and English translations are printed on tickets.



**A standard public transport single ticket costs 4.40zł.** If you're travelling to the further reaches of Warsaw you'll be needing a ticket that covers both zones 1 and 2 – these are priced at 7zł. Note that the airport is in Zone 1. Still with us? Good. There is also a 20 minute ticket priced at 3.40zł. Tickets valid for 24 hrs are priced at 13 or 26zł if travelling through both zones. They have also introduced a new weekend ticket (available from 19:00 on Friday till 08:00 on Monday) which costs 24 zł (also a weekend group ticket is available for up to 5 people and costs 40 zł). **Those over 70 ride for free, as do children up until the end of September of the year they turn 7.** (Really. Probably makes sense with vodka. Have proof of age ID handy in both cases.) Everyone else pays full fare unless in possession of an ISIC card (in which case you must be 26 and under). This entitles you to buy a reduced ticket (*ulgowy*) which costs approximately 50% of the full fare.

You can buy single tickets from machines on most trams and busses or from the driver, though you must have exact change. Once you've got a ticket you will need to validate it in one of the box-style kasowniki, thus activating the magnetic strip on the back. On the metro this must be done before you get on board. It is no longer necessary to buy an extra ticket for animals or large pieces of luggage. Plain clothes ticket inspectors regularly stalk the lines, dishing out 266zł for those without valid tickets (we understand quick payment results in the fine being lessened). They often don't look very official and you are within your rights to request identification, or even do as the locals do, and attempt to bargain them down. ► E-8, tel. (+48) 19 115, [www.ztm.waw.pl](http://www.ztm.waw.pl).

## TAXIS

The days when cash bells would ring whenever a cab driver would hear a foreign accent might have passed, but it's still always better to ring ahead rather than just hailing a taxi in the street. In particular be vigilant when taking a cab to the centre from the arrivals hall of the airport; we've heard plenty of horror stories. The accepted fare from Warsaw Chopin Airport to the centre is 35-50zł; we suggest that you agree upon this price with your driver before setting off in order to ensure avoiding any shenanigans.



## TIPPING TRIBULATIONS

Polish tipping etiquette can be a bit confusing for foreigners. While in other civilized countries it's normal to say 'thanks' when a waiter collects the money, you'll be horrified to learn that in Poland uttering the word '*dziękuję*', or even 'thank you' in English, is an indication that you won't be wanting any change back. This cultural slip-up can get very embarrassing and expensive as the waiter/waitress then typically does their best to play the fool and make you feel ashamed for asking for your money back, or conveniently disappears having pocketed all of your change. Be careful only to say 'thank you' if you are happy for the waitstaff to keep all the change. Otherwise we advise you to only use the word '*proszę*' (please) when handing back the bill and the payment.

Despite the fact that most waitstaff in PL are only paid in pennies and leftovers, it is not customary to tip more than **10%** of the meal's total (though being a foreigner may make the staff expectant of a bit more generosity). As such, we encourage you to reward good service when you feel it's deserved. Finally, it is virtually unheard of to leave the tip on your card, because waitstaff are then forced to pay tax on the gratuity; you won't get the chance. Therefore it's essential to have some change or small bills handy in order to leave your server a tip. If you don't have any, ask for change.

All the companies we list will usually have someone on their switchboard who can speak English. MPT, the state-run firm, can boast the most reliable reputation, but you won't find many cheaper than Super Taxi. Find ELE taxis on the Marriott tower side of the central station; it's the second row of cars. Tipping is not expected, but if your driver gets you from A to B without a detour through the countryside then by all means, feel free.

### ELE TAXI

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 811 11 11, [www.eletaxi.pl](http://www.eletaxi.pl).

### HALO TAXI O'K

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 196 23, [www.halotaxiok.pl](http://www.halotaxiok.pl).

### ITAXI.PL

► F-8, [www.itaxi.pl/eng](http://www.itaxi.pl/eng). ☎

### MERC TAXI

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 677 77 77, [www.6777777.pl](http://www.6777777.pl).

### MPT

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 191 91, [www.taximpt.pl](http://www.taximpt.pl).

### SAWA TAXI

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 644 44 44, [www.sawataxi.com.pl](http://www.sawataxi.com.pl).

### SUPER TAXI

► F-8, tel. (+48) 22 196 22, [www.supertaxi.pl](http://www.supertaxi.pl).

## FACTS & FIGURES

### TERRITORY

Poland covers an area of 312,685 square kilometres and is the ninth biggest country in Europe. It borders the Baltic Sea (528km) and seven countries, namely Belarus (416km), Czech Republic (790km), Germany (467km), Lithuania (103km), the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad (210km), Slovakia (539km) and Ukraine (529km).

### LONGEST RIVER

Warsaw is split by the river Vistula (Wisła). At 1,047km it is Poland's longest river and flows into the Bay of Gdańsk (Zatoka Gdańska).

### HIGHEST POINT

The highest peak in Poland is Rysy (2,499 metres) found in the Tatra mountains in the south of Poland.

### POPULATION (2016)

Poland - 38,483,957

**Warsaw - 1,744,400**

Kraków - 761,100

Łódź - 700,982

Wrocław - 635,800

Poznań - 542,300

Gdańsk - 462,249

Katowice - 301,834

### LOCAL TIME

Poland is in the Central European (CET) time zone (GMT+1hr). When it's 12:00 in Warsaw it's 6:00 am in New York City, 11:00 in London, 12:00 in Paris and Berlin and 19:00 in Tokyo. Polish summer time (GMT+2hrs) starts and ends on the last Sundays of March and October.

## MARKET VALUES

Prices in Poland are still fairly competitive despite increases over the last couple of years particularly in the prices of cigarettes. Here are some typical everyday products and prices. Market values as of November 18, 2016 based on €1 = 4.43zł

McDonald's Big Mac	<b>9.60 zł</b>	€ 2.17
Snickers candy bar	<b>1.75 zł</b>	€ 0.40
0.5ltr vodka (shop)	<b>25.99 zł</b>	€ 5.87
0.5ltr beer (shop)	<b>2.79 zł</b>	€ 0.63
0.5ltr beer (bar)	<b>9.00 zł</b>	€ 2.03
Loaf of white bread	<b>2.99 zł</b>	€ 0.67
Pack of Marlboro cigarettes	<b>15.50 zł</b>	€ 3.50
1 ltr of unleaded petrol (98)	<b>4.49 zł</b>	€ 1.01
Local transport ticket (1 journey)	<b>4.40 zł</b>	€ 0.99

be reached from a mobile phone or a land-line and are hotlines in case you run into any troubles during your stay. The lines are active year round with later hours during the high-tourist season.

For urgent medical emergencies, a list of Emergency Rooms can be found in the Directory on page 130. If you've woken up to find you've got a raging headache, a swollen foot you can't put weight on and vague memories of some kind of calamity, we suggest you sort it out by calling a private clinic (p.132), thus avoiding the hassle of the notoriously long queues in Polish hospitals. Further help can be provided by embassies and consulates, a list of which you'll find on page 130.

## ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Poland is 230V, 50Hz AC. Plug sockets are round with two round-pin sockets. Therefore if you are coming from the UK or Ireland you are definitely going to need a plug convertor. The best place to pick these up is at home as our residents Brits will testify although if you do arrive without a convertor you can try your hotel concierge or reception. If they don't have one the best place to pick one up is at one of the big electrical outlets often situated on the edge of town. Our advice is save yourself the hassle and get one in the airport as you leave.

## HEALTH & EMERGENCY

In the case of an emergency, **mobile phone users should dial 112** to be forwarded to the police, fire department or ER. From a landline or public phone dial the following: Ambulance: 999; Fire: 998; Police: 997.

English, German and Russian speakers have separate lines specifically designed for foreigners in distress: **+48 608 599 999** or **+48 22 278 77 77**. Both numbers can

## LAW & ORDER

In general Warsaw is far safer than most Western cities, and visitors are unlikely to face any problems. Petty crime does exist, and travellers should be on guard against pickpockets working tram and bus routes by the train station. If you're in a bar or a restaurant keep your wallet inside your trouser pocket, not inside a jacket casually left lying around. Those travelling by car are advised to use a guarded car park. Avoid being ripped off by opportunistic taxi gits by using clearly marked cabs, something to bear in mind around the train station and airport. The officially sanctioned state company MPT (tel. 22 19191) is possibly the best bet, and their switchboard features English speaking operators. The vagrants and pondlife who gather around the train station are by in large harmless and easily ignored. Warsaw's right bank has traditionally enjoyed something of a no-go reputation, though is now fast becoming ever more trendy.

Staying on the right side of the law is significantly easier for tourists who accept that Polish beer and vodka are rocket fuel and drink accordingly. If you're determined to make an idiot of yourself then make sure it's not in front of the law. In recent

years visitors ranging from folks in Chewbacca costumes to complete fools who've thought it's perfectly acceptable to drop trousers and urinate in a city centre fountain have tested the patience of the local law enforcement. Their tolerance threshold is now decidedly low so don't push your luck. Those who do may well be treated to a trip to Warsaw's premier drunk tank (ul. Kolska 2/4), a chastening experience which will set you back 250zł for an up to 24 hour stay. In return for your cash expect a strip search, a set of blue pyjamas and the company of a dozen mumbling vagrants. Not to mention a hefty fine (credit cards not accepted, of course).

## WATER

Though officially stamped as safe to drink, hypochondriacs and others with a weak constitution may want to avoid drinking Polish tap water; indeed, despite it never giving us any problems, the locals still regularly scold us for drinking from the tap. The antique plumbing in many buildings can also affect the water quality, so to play it safe we recommend you just drink bottled water, which is widely available and inexpensive. Unless you're in a restaurant, that is. Tourists from countries where the right to drink water is a guaranteed freedom may be surprised to find that water is not complimentary in Polish restaurants; in fact it's downright expensive and comes in a tiny glass that will barely wet your thirst. By comparison, beer is a much better value as you get more than twice as much for only a couple złotych more; such is Poland's 'drinking problem.' If you're still set on drinking water with your meal, be prepared to declare a preference between *gazowana* (carbonated water) and *niegazowana* (still water).

## WARSAWPASS



A rather nifty little card available from Tourist Information points at the Palace of Culture, The Old Town or simply upon arrival at Chopin Airport

(see Tourist Information on page 79). For a one-off payment the card allows you access to Warsaw's top ten tourist sites, the tourist 'Hop on, Hop off' bus service and discounts on various tours and at restaurants. All participating venues and services are listed in the guide book you will receive when purchasing the card. A useful option is that the card also allows you to 'skip the queue' at fantastically popular attractions like The Copernicus Science Centre - take our word for it, this can save you hours! The 24, 48 or 72 hour validity starts after the first time you use the card and prices are 119zł, 159zł and 189zł respectively. Keep in mind that it won't be much use to you when you're fast asleep at night and also be aware that some participating museums are closed on Mondays! Places in the guide which accept Warsaw Pass card are marked with the **TC** icon.

► [www.warsawpass.com](http://www.warsawpass.com).

## LANGUAGE SMARTS

Attempting discourse in the Polish language can be terrifying and humiliating, but fortunately for you most Poles, particularly young people, have a healthy command of the English language. Though you can probably get by without it, learning a few key Polish phrases will nonetheless smooth your time in the country of potatoes, cabbage and vodka, and may even win you friends and admirers.

On the downside, Polish is officially recognised as one of the most difficult languages for native English speakers to learn. On the upside, however, unlike in English, words in Polish are actually spelled the way they are pronounced. This is a great help once you know how to pronounce each letter/combination of letters. While many letters represent the same sounds as they do in English, below we have listed those particular to Polish, followed by some basic words and phrases. *Powodzenia* (Good luck)!

### Basic Pronunciation

'a' sounds like 'on' in the French 'bon'  
'e' sounds like 'en' as in the French 'bien'  
'o' is an open 'o' sound like 'oo' in 'boot'  
'c' like the 'ts' in 'bits'  
'j' like the 'y' in 'yeah'  
'w' is pronounced like the English 'v'  
'ł' like the 'w' in 'win'  
'ń' like the 'ny' in 'canyon'  
'cz' and 'ć' like the 'ch' in 'beach'  
'dz' like the 'ds' in 'beds'  
'rz' and 'ż' like the 'su' in 'treasure'  
'sz' and 'ś' like the 'sh' in 'ship'  
'drz' like the 'g' in 'George'  
'r' is always rolled

### Polish Words & Phrases

Yes	Tak	(Tahk)
No	Nie	(Nyeh)
Hi/Bye (informal)	Cześć	(Cheshch)
Hello/Good day (formal)	Dzień dobry	(Jen doh-bri)
Good evening (formal)	Dobry wieczór	(Doh-bri vyeh-choor)
Good-bye	Do widzenia	(Doh veet-zen-ya)
Good Night	Dobranoc	(Doh-brah-noats)
Please	Proszę	(Proshéh)
Thank you	Dziękuję	(Jen-koo-yeh)
Excuse me/Sorry	Przepraszam	(Pshéh-prasham)
My name is...	Mam na imię...	(Mam nah eh-myeh...)
I'm from England.	Jestem z Anglii	(Yehstem zanglee)
Do you speak English?	Czy mówisz po angielsku?	(Che moo-veesh po an-gyel-skoo?)
I don't speak Polish.	Nie mówię po polsku.	(Nyeh moo-vyeh po pol-skoo.)
I don't understand.	Nie rozumiem.	(Nyeh row-zoo-me-ehm.)
Two beers, please.	Dwa piwa proszę.	(Dvah pee vah proshéh.)
Cheers!	Na zdrowie!	(Nah zdroyeh!)
Where are the toilets?	Gdzie są toalety?	(Gdjeh sawn too-leetih)
You are beautiful.	Jesteś piękna.	(Yeh-tesh pee-ek-nah.)
I love you.	Kocham cię.	(Ko-hahm chuh.)
Please take me home.	Proszę zabrać mnie do domu.	(Proshéh za-byesh myneh doh doh-moo.)
Call me!	Zadzwoń do mnie!	(Zads-dvoan doh mnyeh!)
Airport	Lotnisko	(Lot-nees-ko)
Train station	Dworzec PKP	(Dwoar-jets Peh Kah Peh)
Bus station	Dworzec PKS	(Dwoar-jets Peh Kah Ess)
One ticket to...	Jeden bilet do...	(Yeh-dén bee-let doh...)





Three Kings' Day Procession | Photo by Krzysztof Jaszczak

### CINEMAS

**ATLANTIC CINEMA** ▶ F-8, ul. Chmielna 33, tel. (+48) 22 827 08 94, [www.kinoatlantic.pl](http://www.kinoatlantic.pl). Tickets 16-30zł. Box office open 15 minutes before the first showtime to 15 minutes after the last showtime.

**KINO MURANÓW** ▶ E-5, ul. Gen. Andersa 5, tel. (+48) 22 635 25 29, [www.muranow.gutekfilm.pl](http://www.muranow.gutekfilm.pl). Box office open from 10:00 to the last showtime. Tickets 11-20zł.

#### MULTIKINO ŻŁOTE TARASY

Also at Al. Ken 60 (Ursynów), Wola Park, ul. Górczewska 124 (Wola); Centrum Targówek, ul. Głębocka 15 (Targówek).  
▶ E-8, ul. Żłota 59, tel. (+48) 22 462 81 10, [www.multikino.pl](http://www.multikino.pl). Box office open from 09:00 to 15 minutes after the last showtime. Tickets 28.50-36.90zł.

### BALLET & DANCE

#### 10.12 19:00 » MOSCOW CITY BALLET - SWAN LAKE

This timeless and well-known performance, with its costumes, music, and fantastic story that has been choreographed so flawlessly, needs no introduction. It is with dexterity and perfection that the dancers of the Moscow City Ballet bring Peter Tchaikovsky's fantasy "Swan Lake" back to life once more. Briefly, the story is of girls that have been turned into swans and live on a lake of tears - a curse that can only be broken by a prince's love. But even

if you know the story, the world class performance by the Moscow City Ballet is enough reason to attend a second time. ▶ J-10, Torwar, ul. Łazienkowska 6a, Tickets 125-165zł. Available at [www.ebilet.pl](http://www.ebilet.pl) and Empik (Żłote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Żłota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00), [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).

### CHILDREN'S EVENTS

#### 01.12 - 22.12 » THE GREAT ELF FACTORY

Willy Wonka's Factory meets Santa's Workshop in this interactive Christmassy attraction. Over the course of 2.5h, children (divided into appropriate age groups) will attempt to help the elves build a toy by completing tasks at ten special workstations. The experience also includes fun on the Elf Slide, a visit to Santa's office, a "warm snowball" fight, working the way through a labyrinth, and - to top it all off - a meeting with Santa, who will hand out certificates and badges. Adults can come along or pass time in the Elf Cafe. ▶ K-6, National Stadium, Al. Ks. J. Poniatowskiego 1, Tickets 59.99-69.99zł. Available at [www.ebilet.pl](http://www.ebilet.pl) and Empik (Żłote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Żłota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00), [www.wielkafabrykaelfow.pl](http://www.wielkafabrykaelfow.pl).

#### 12.01 - 16.01 » THE SMURFS LIVE ON STAGE

Debuting in comics in the late 50s, these cute and mischievous creatures enjoyed a popular cartoon in the 80s, and, like seemingly everything from that decade, returned to the pop culture carousel with two recent


feature films - *The Smurfs* and *The Smurfs 2*. Now you can witness their humorous blue-skinned banter live on the stage in select cities across Poland. From the enchanting storyline to the whimsical set design, the show is bound to capture the hearts of children and parents alike. ► **J-10, Torwar, ul. Łazienkowska 6a, Tickets 65-149zł. Available at [www.ebilet.pl](http://www.ebilet.pl) and Empik (Złote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Złota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00), [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).**

## EXHIBITIONS


### 19.11 - 19.02 ► GATEWAY TO SPACE

This NASA exhibition, which has been seen by 3 million people across Europe, in the US and in South Africa, is in Poland for the first time! Curated from the collections of the US Space Rocket Center and NASA Visitor Center, the exhibit presents space exploration from the last century to the present day. Among the more than 100 items on display are the Apollo capsule, Sputnik 1, original modules from the MIR satellite, the International Space Station, authentic cockpits and elements from cosmic machines, space suits and asteroids. With the help of simulators you can fly to the moon, work on a space station and step on a silver globe. The exhibition shows the technical and academic aspects of travelling to space and focuses on the history of space missions while presenting objects connected with the everyday life of astronauts. ► **Event takes place at ul. Mińska 65. Tickets 50-60zł. Available at [www.wystawospace.pl](http://www.wystawospace.pl) and before the event.**

### 12.10 - 30.12 ► 100/100 - THE 100 MOST VALUABLE WORKS OF ART FROM KUL FOR THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

The most valuable and revered works from the collection of the Lublin Catholic University of John Paul II (KUL), are expected to be presented this Fall as a part of the university's centennial celebration. The royal castle in Warsaw will present the both European and Polish works (paintings, sculptures, and other artifacts) in a scope and richness not seen before from KUL. From an array of styles to the breadth of the time periods, there are many opportunities for artistic contemplation. ► **G-4, Gallery of Paintings, Sculpture and the Decorative Arts, Pl. Zamkowy 4 (Royal Castle),  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 355 51 70, Admission 30/20zł, family ticket 15zł per person. Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, [www.zamek-krolewski.pl](http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl).**

### 21.10 - 05.02 ► SPUTNIK PHOTOS OSAD. LOST TERRITORIES

Sputnik photos is an international collective created in 2006 by a union of Central-Eastern European photographers which assess questions of regional transformation and changing societal, political, and cultural processes. ► **I-10, Ujazdowski Castle (Museum of Modern Art/CSW), ul. Jazdów 2,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 628 12 71, Admission 12/6zł, [www.csw.art.pl](http://www.csw.art.pl). Open 12:00 - 19:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**

	
<b>ANITA LIPNICKA</b>	
<b>STODOLA CLUB, WARSAW</b>	<b>DECEMBER 6TH</b>
	
<b>MIKROMUSIC ORKIESTRA</b>	
<b>STODOLA CLUB, WARSAW</b>	<b>DECEMBER 8TH</b>
	
<b>KRZYSZTOF IWANECZKO</b>	
<b>STODOLA CLUB, WARSAW</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15TH</b>
	
<b>ŁĄKI ŁAN</b>	
<b>STODOLA CLUB, WARSAW</b>	<b>DECEMBER 17TH</b>
	
<b>SKUNK ANANSIE</b>	
<b>TEATR ŁĄZNIA NOWA, CRACOW</b> <b>STODOLA CLUB, WARSAW</b> <b>B90, GDAŃSK</b> <b>CK ZAMEK, POZNAŃ <b>SOLD OUT</b></b>	<b>FEBRUARY 20TH</b> <b>FEBRUARY 21TH</b> <b>FEBRUARY 22TH</b> <b>FEBRUARY 24TH</b>

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHOIR FESTIVAL




**09.12 - 11.12 » WARSAW ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHOIR FESTIVAL**

December is here, let the Christmas cheer begin... Sure, if you're in the city at this time of year, the traditional Christmas markets are going to be the big attraction, but how about throwing in a little holiday music (and not the shopping mall kind)? The Advent and Christmas Choir Festival is taking place in Warsaw for the second time this year, drawing amateur choirs from all over the world to compete for the Golden Angel. Did we mention it's free? ► **Admission free, [www.christmasfestival.pl](http://www.christmasfestival.pl). Every Fri, Sat, Sun.**




## 22.09 - 08.01 » PUBLIC SPIRITS

The exhibition „Duchy wspólnoty” or Public Spirits is an artistic endeavor which conveys the regional expressions of globalization as an arena of both melting and opposing world views. Conflicting traditions, differing geopolitical interests, as well as uncertain democratic rights are just some of the contemporary issues facing the South-East Asian, Chinese, and Taiwanese province. The arts included in this exhibition in many ways grant solidarity and power to these often disadvantaged minorities, by not only striving to create an arena for public spirit but also promoting global introspection. ► I-10, Ujazdowski Castle (Museum Of Modern Art/CSW), ul. Jazdów 2,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 628 12 71, Admission 12/6zł, [www.csw.art.pl](http://www.csw.art.pl). Open 12:00 - 19:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.

**17.11 - 12.02 » PRICELESS. ACQUISITIONS  
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW**

In 2014-2016 many new works were added to the collections of the National Museum in Warsaw - some donated, other purchased, other reacquired after having been lost during the war. This exhibit includes more than 200 of these works, not only by Polish artists, but which represent a wide range of painting, sculpture, photography and other works, from ancient Egyptian masks to contemporary artwork. ► **H-8, National Museum, Al. Jerozolimskie 3, M Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 629 30 93, Tickets 15/10zł, family ticket 30zł; Tue free, [www.mnw.art.pl](http://www.mnw.art.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**

**21.09 - 01.01 » NEW ART AT NMW  
/ REGIONAL COLLECTIONS OF  
CONTEMPORARY ART**

Thanks to the funding of the National Ministry of Culture and Heritage, young and not-so-young artists have teamed together to create the following, long-anticipated collection, New Art at MNW. Here, individual series had been paired together to create an unforgettable experience in an almost uniform, visual language. Photographic corridors, architectural and erotic themes, as well as sculpture, will bring a lot of attitude to the newly updated exhibition. ► **H-8, National Museum, Al. Jerozolimskie 3,  Nowy Świat-Universytet**, tel. (+48) 22 629 30 93, Admission 15/10zł, [www.mnw.art.pl](http://www.mnw.art.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.

**01.10 - 08.01 » LIFE IN THE MIDST OF  
BEAUTY. THE WORLD OF A CHINESE  
SCHOLAR**

As a part of an exchange programme between National Museum in Warsaw and the National Museum in China, the following limited-time exhibition will bring themes of the far-east to our local corridors. The exhibition is expected to focus on the fascinating caste of "scholar-officials," which had thrived in ancient Chinese society. The distinct group of society and its role in history will be investigated deeply through the calligraphy, paintings, ceramics, furniture, textiles, and accompanying historical analysis. ► **H-8, National Museum, Al. Jerozolimskie 3,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 629 30 93, Admission 20/15zł, www.mnwat.pl. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**



## FILM

**09.12 - 15.12 » WATCH DOGS.  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN FILM**

Encircling the topic of human rights, the Festival "WATCH DOCS. Human Rights in Film" is one of the most interesting film celebrations in the world. On the Poznan opening of the Festival, attendees can see films from three thematic blocks. The first, pertaining to the perspectives of women, outlines both historical and contemporary challenges of women across the world, in cultural, societal, and political contexts. The common ground of the seemingly-unrelated narratives come together in the girls' joint journey to the securing of individual, fundamental rights. The second block of films will relate the stories of migrants, who we know struggle very much in the context of human rights. To protect themselves and their family, the characters presented will show incredible determination and solidarity, in admittedly troubled times. Finally, "Strategies of Defiance" is the name of the third block. It will relate to the many narratives of citizen-led defiance. The presented documentaries will present not only singular acts of heroism, but also massive actions against of human rights. The screening of all films will be accompanied by numerous meetings and workshops. In addition, every film block will be summarized by a series of questions and a dose of discussion. ► **Admission free,** [www.watchdocs.pl](http://www.watchdocs.pl).

## ROCK &amp; POP CONCERTS

**11.12 19:00 » 90S LIVE IN CONCERT**

Are the 90s the new 80s? The organisers of 90s Live in Concert definitely think so and have decided to put together a show featuring some of the 90s best known artists. This 3 hour blast from the past will include bands 2 Unlimited, Dr. Alban, Captain Jack and La Bouche singing hits from No Limits and Let the Beat Control your Body to Sweet Dreams and Hello Africa. Pretty soon you will be bobbing your head faster than the boys from the Roxbury. ► **J-10, Torwar, ul. Łazienkowska 6a, Tickets 125-165zł.** Available at [www.ebilet.pl](http://www.ebilet.pl) and Empik (Złote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Złota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00), [www.makroconcert.com/pl](http://www.makroconcert.com/pl).

**19.12 20:00 » BENJAMIN CLEMENTINE**

Playing in Warsaw for the first time, incredible Benjamin Clementine will perform a pre-holiday recital of songs from his award-winning album "At Least For Now." Regarded as the artist's musical biography, the album displays different states of folk, blues, soul, rock and jazz, all definitely coloured by Clementine's unique voice. Born in London, Clementine moved to Paris at the age of 19 and paid his dues playing in bars and metro stations before gaining a worldwide following as a charismatic performer as singular as Leonard Cohen or Billie Holiday. ► **F-7, Palladium, ul. Złota 9, tel. (+48) 22 822 87 02, Tickets 140zł.** Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (Złote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Złota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00).



## Culture & Events

### 17.01 19:30 » APOCALYPTICA

To honor the release of "Plays Metallica by Four Cellos" 20 years ago, Finnish cello masters Apocalyptica have two concerts planned for Warsaw and Wrocław. Their popular debut album of Metallica covers will be re-released in July 2016 with three additional songs: "Battery," "Nothing Else Matters" and "Seek & Destroy." Combining metal and classical music while developing a devoted following for the last two decades, Apocalyptica's eighth and latest album, "Shadowmaker," was produced by Grammy winner Nick Raskulinec, who has worked with the Foo Fighters and Mastodon. Critics noticed inspirations from Alter Bridge or Alice in Chains, but the album also boasts the strictly instrumental songs for which Apocalyptica is known.

► J-10, Torwar, ul. Łazienkowska 6a, Tickets 120-180zł. Available at [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl) and Empik (Złote Tarasy, B-3, ul. Złota 59; open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 18.11 - 27.01 » FISH MARKET

Fresh, smoked, and marinated fish galore (as well as some pescetarian dishes for on-the-spot eating) will be available at this weekly market located at Pl. Powstańców Warszawy (B-3). ► Open 11:00 - 19:00, [www.targrybnywarszawa.pl](http://www.targrybnywarszawa.pl). Every Friday.

### 22.10 - 12.03 » ROYAL GARDEN OF LIGHT

To bring a little cheer to cold autumn and winter evenings (and some appeal to an otherwise grey garden), the Wilanów Palace has turned the outdoor premises into a special Royal Garden filled with thousands of colorful diodes mimicking the baroque shapes of plants. On Saturday and Sunday evenings, there are shows using 3D projections onto the palace facade. ► The Wilanów Palace Museum, ul. S.K. Potockiego 10/16, tel. (+48) 22 544 27 00, Admission 10/5zł, [www.wilanow-palac.pl](http://www.wilanow-palac.pl).

### 10.12 - 11.12 » SLOW WEEKEND: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you always find pre-Christmas mall shopping more frustrating than fun, you might want to hit up the Slow Weekend at Soho Factory to peruse some specially-selected stocking stuffers (and make it easy for yourself). The vendors will be selling clothes, accessories, children's toys, games, home goods, books, and vinyl records (yes, there will be a tangible hipster vibe), but if shopping wears you down, there will also be food trucks, lounge chairs, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, and free beauty/relaxation treatments to help you enjoy the day. ► Soho Factory, ul. Mińska 25 (Praga-Południe).

### 10.01 19:00 » THE "METROPOLIS" PROJECT: FILM, OPERA, ELECTRONIC MUSIC, AND ELECTRIC GUITAR

Fritz Lang's immortal classic *The Metropolis* (1927) will be brought to life with a live soundtrack combining electronic music, rock, and opera - a combination to remember, for sure. The artists responsible for making this happen are

Władysław Komendarek, a multi-instrumentalist and composer considered to be one of the pioneers of Polish electronic music; Igor Gwadera, an eighteen-year-old guitar virtuoso who opened for Slash in Katowice; and Agnieszka Makówka, soprano soloist at the Great Theatre in Łódź and the Polish Chamber Opera. This special event is a wonderful chance to get re-acquainted with the UNESCO-listed film and listen to unusual, somewhat experimental music by talented Polish artists. Event will take place at the Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio (ul. Modzelewskiego 59). ► Tickets 60zł. Available at [sklep.polskieradio.pl](http://sklep.polskieradio.pl) or before the concert.

## SPORT

### 04.12 12:00 » SANTA CLAUS RUN

Themed runs seem to be catching on in Poland, even in the not-so-outdoorsy season. Hence, the Santa Claus Run - a 10K charity jog around the Służewiec Racecourse by participants donning Santa headgear (appropriately organised on Saint Nicholas Day, a gift-giving day in Poland). For each kilometer ran by the participants, sponsors will donate one zloty to children's NGOs. The starter pack includes a Santa hat, start number, medal for participation (yes, it's that kind of event), and sack with surprise gifts from the organisers. ► Służewiec Racecourse, ul. Puławska 266 (Mokotów), Registration fee 49-100zł, [www.biegmikolajow.org](http://www.biegmikolajow.org).

## THEATRE

### 03.12 19:30, 10.12 18:00, 28.12 19:00, 17.01 19:00, 24.01 19:00 » LEND ME A TENOR!

The show must go on - but what if your superstar tenor appears to have committed suicide just before the big night? This Ken Ludwig comedy has been enjoying undying popularity since its 1986 West End premiere. At Capitol it'll be performed in Polish with English supertitles. ► E-6, Capitol Theatre, ul. Marszałkowska 115, tel. (+48) 22 620 21 42, Tickets 99-109zł, [www.teatrcapitol.pl](http://www.teatrcapitol.pl).

### 03.12 19:00, 29.12 19:00, 06.01 18:00, 20.01 19:30, 29.01 19:00 » MY FRIEND MISS FLINT

Typically British and still as timely as ever, *My Friend Miss Flint* was written by Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham and originally premiered at Theatre Royal in 1984. The title character is a nonexistent public relations consultant invented as a tax dodge, setting off a tricky situation once Inland Revenue gets involved. At Capitol, this witty comedy will be directed by Andrzej Rozhin and performed in Polish with English supertitles under the name *Przekręt (nie)doskonały*. ► E-6, Capitol Theatre, ul. Marszałkowska 115, tel. (+48) 22 620 21 42, Tickets 99-150zł, [www.teatrcapitol.pl](http://www.teatrcapitol.pl).

## What's going on?



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Choreography Victor Smirnov-Golovanov

# MOSCOW CITY BALLET

*Swan lake*

10.12 WARSAW HALA TORWAR



CAPTAIN JACK

2 UNLIMITED

LA BOUCHE

DR. ALBAN

90s  
live in concert



11.12 WARSAW HALA TORWAR

the  
SMURFS

LIVE  
ON STAGE



12-16.01 WARSAW HALA TORWAR

# GREGORIAN

in concert

THE ORIGINAL

18.02 WARSAW HALA TORWAR







Get thrilled and grilled at Warsaw's very own Benihana.

Warsaw's come a long way fast, and nowhere is the urban vibrancy more apparent than in the city's progressive culinary scene. Today one can find quality dining experiences from most corners of the world, though the predominance of Italian trattorias, sushi bars and designer burger joints never ceases to amaze us. As the Polish palate is developing, so too is the service industry, though gruff, ditz, or plain incompetent service is still far too common. As regards to tipping, 10% is standard (easy math!), if a decent enough job is done.

While our rigorously researched opening hours would seem self-explanatory, be aware that venues will close their doors if business is slow, and some 'restobars' employ different sets of hours for bar and kitchen - the times we list in such cases are for the kitchen, and the prices we list in brackets denote the cost of the cheapest and most expensive main course on the menu.

Below is a selection of recommendations depending what you are looking for:

## BUSINESS

**Restauracja Różana (p. 51)** is an experienced local offering that will impress the client and give you room to talk shop, while **Butchery and Wine (p. 56)** recently won accolades as the city's top restaurant.

## CHEAP

The many **bar mleczny** (milk bars - p. 31) canteens are a sadly declining legacy of the communist past. They're a unique Polish experience, but don't expect culinary

miracles. Do expect culinary miracles at **Solec 44 (p. 37)** though - the food looks a million dollars while adhering to an absolute affordability ethos (mains around 40 zł).

## COUPLES

For a romantic and elegant night out **Halka (p. 48)** ticks all the right boxes, while those looking for somewhere with a more casually stylish atmosphere should try out the award winning and groundbreaking **Atelier Amaro (p. 46)**. This is one of Poland's two Michelin starred restaurants so expect to pay a little more for that unforgettable dinner.

## KIDS

**Hard Rock Cafe (p. 27)** is always going to be a favourite and they do know how to make your special ones feel like Miley or Justin. Credit also goes to **Aioli Cantine (p. 44)** for their ambitious weekend kids program which includes oversized chess and celebrities reading children's stories.

## LADS

Launch an attack on the pies, fish & chips and burgers at **Legends (p. 30)** while downing pints of Spitfire Ale and watching the footie, or head down to **Bierhalle (p. 33)** where their Bavarian menu is perfectly matched to the flury of pints they pour from their pipes.

## POLSKI

Eat Commie style in **Czerwony Wieprz (p. 47)**, or for a pre-revolutionary and elegant take on Polish cuisine **Dom Polski (p. 48)** a class act that's hard to beat. For a full-on rustic Polish experience in the big city, the rustic style of **Zapiecek's (p. 54)** pierogi specialties is a good choice.



## SYMBOL KEY

⊗ No smoking	♿ Child-friendly
🐾 Animal friendly	💳 Credit cards not accepted
👤 Take away	♿ Facilities for the disabled
🚚 Home delivery	🚬 Smoking room available
🎵 Live music	📶 Wi-fi connection
🎫 WarsawPass tourist discount card	

## AFRICAN

### CAFÉ BAOBAB

A million miles away from its previous incarnation as Sax - the legendary down at heel haunt of poet Agnieszka Osiecka, this venue is now a Senegalese bar and restaurant. Run by former basketballer and champion cocktail mixer, Aziz, it's a multi-cultural wonderland where you're sure to find someone who speaks your language. The bar is decorated in rich woody colours, some nice large scale photos from Senegal and piles of books about faraway places. The Senegalese menu isn't half as scary as food cowards may think, with all the meat and fish dishes well worth trying. ▶ L-7, ul. Francuska 31, tel. (+48) 22 617 40 57, [www.cafebabab.pl](http://www.cafebabab.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (28-30zł). 🍷 🐾 🚬 📶

All the latest news

[facebook.com/WarsawInYourPocket](https://facebook.com/WarsawInYourPocket)

## AMERICAN

### HARD ROCK CAFE

Is there anything more American than sinking your teeth into a 10oz burger stacked with cheddar and bacon while staring at the jacket worn by Jimi Hendrix on the cover of *Are You Experienced?* The Hard Rock Cafe has based a business around the concept of unrivalled burgers and impressive memorabilia, and Warsaw's chapter is no different. The two-story venue features a wall made of 675 guitars and their new menu offers even more mouth watering American grilled, fried and melted classics (veggie options also available). The dark basement bar churns out heaping drinks that look like they require two straws. Don't miss the weekday main+side+drink (soft drink or wine) lunch special from 12:00 - 15:00 for 29zł and on Saturdays they have live music from 22:00. ▶ E-8, ul. Żłota 59 (Złote Tarasy), M Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl). Open 09:00 - 24:00. (30-130zł). 🍷 🐾 🚬 📶

DOM WODKI

elixir  
restaurant & vodka atelier



*polish nouvelle cuisine*







Unique to Poland, ELIXIR is the first Polish restaurant to marry the idea of food and vodka pairings. Find Poland's rich culinary heritage carefully interwoven with centuries of artisan distilling expertise. Our modern understanding of classic recipes relies on regional produce and innovative techniques, while our high grade alcohol selection offers over 250 vodkas from cult brands. Surprise yourself and discover Poland anew!

Restaurant ELIXIR by Dom Wódki  
Plac Teatralny, 9/11 Wierzbowa Str., Warsaw  
Ph: +48 22 828 22 11  
e-mail: [restauracja@domwodki.pl](mailto:restauracja@domwodki.pl)  
[www.domwodki.pl](http://www.domwodki.pl)


## BREAKFAST

Although it's arguably the most important meal of the day, not everyone has the pleasure of waking to a five-star breakfast. So it's good news that there are early bird eating options that go beyond foraging in bins. First off, **Charlotte** will dazzle and delight with the savoury smells, sultry sweets and *treś* magnifique eats. **Cafe Vincent** has perhaps the best pastries, baguettes and croissants in the city plus jet set breakfast sets. For those on the tourist track looking for an early snack and a cup of joe to get you on the go, **To Lubie** is the best in show.







### CAFÉ VINCENT

This place is a great French bakery and coffee shop doing a huge range of authentic pastries and bread. Their baked goods are a bit too good as there is almost always a queue out the door. Don't move too quickly or you may be challenged to a baguette sword fight. Any bread trauma you may suffer is well worth it as their coffee and croissants are the best in town and will set you back less than 20zł and their full breakfast sets less than 30zł. Also at ul. Jana Pawła II 82 (C-2, Arkadia) and ul. Chmielna 21. ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 64,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 828 01 15. Open 06:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 06:30 - 01:00.     







### CHARLOTTE. CHLEB I WINO

Enjoy buttery croissants with jam or traditional egg dishes for breakfast or anytime really since trendy Charlotte slings breakfast all day. Also visit their new Menora location on Plac Grzybowski 2. ► G-10, Al. Wyzwolenia 18 (entrance from Pl. Zbawiciela),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 662 20 45 55, [www.bistrocharlotte.com](http://www.bistrocharlotte.com). Open 07:00 - 24:00, Fri 07:00 - 01:00, Sat 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (11-25zł).     

### HARD ROCK CAFE

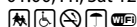
If you're looking for a big, fast and cheap American-style breakfast, none rocks harder than this global legend. Their special breakfast menu features omelettes, pancakes, eggs, juices, coffee etc. They also offer a "huge, fresh sandwich and a coffee" for only 16zł. ► E-8, ul. Złota 59 (Złota Tarasy),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl). Breakfast served 09:00 - 12:00.     

### TO LUBIE

Divine. Coffee, cakes, pies, breakfast, coffee and apple crumble at 10zł a slice (not necessarily in that order). Opposite the church on a street that is best known as being tourist-trap central, this is the kind of place you can get all twee and generally Krakow for a moment. Old/New Town should be full of places like is. 'I like this' is what the name means and we do. Best bit, breakfast served all day! ► F-3, ul. Freta 8,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 635 90 23, [www.tolubie.pl](http://www.tolubie.pl). Open 09:00 - 22:00. (10-15zł).     

## SOMEPLACE ELSE

SPE has been serving up some of the best burgers in Warsaw for as long as we can remember, and a recent visit shows little has changed: the SPE Quesadilla is both epic and creative. The large, open bar is capable of mixing up anything you can think of, including a spicy bloody Mary to accompany the Sheraton's brunch, which is served here on Sundays. They also offer a fantastic two-course lunch menu Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00 for 35zł. ► H-9, ul. Prusa 2 (Sheraton Warsaw Hotel),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 450 67 10, [www.warszawa.someplace-else.pl](http://www.warszawa.someplace-else.pl). Open 12:00 - 01:00; Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. (28-110zł).



## TGI FRIDAYS

The Friday's experience as replicated the world over, so no surprises to find Americana aplenty and staff fitted out with bells, whistles and other moronic markings otherwise known as flair. The Warsaw location features big breakfasts (Mon-Fri 11:00 - 12:00) decent burgers, decadent ribs and if you catch them on the right day, some smashing steaks. By day a family fave (free nanny service on Sunday from 12:00 - 18:00), at night it's a bit more grown up with expats and locals, usually in office attire, drinking shots and braying for cocktails. ► D-6, Al. Jana Pawła II 29,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 653 83 60, [www.tgifridays.pl](http://www.tgifridays.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (21-75zł).   



## ARGENTINEAN

### SALTO

Winner of the 2013 edition of Poland's 'Top Chef' competition, Argentinean-born Martin Gimenez Castro now heads his own signature restaurant in the city's glamorous Art Deco Hotel Rialto. Enter via a separate door on ul. Emilii Plater and prepare to be dazzled by the modern South American cuisine on offer. The fish and seafood dishes include octopus - a perennial favourite among diners. Mr. Gimenez Castro's encyclopaedic knowledge of the proper hanging and preparation of beef can be experienced by diving into the steak section of the menu. They also offer an extensive breakfast menu weekdays from 06:30 - 10:30 and weekends from 07:00 - 12:00. ► F-10, ul. Wilcza 73 (entrance from ul. Emilii Plater),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 584 87 71, [www.saltorestauracja.pl](http://www.saltorestauracja.pl). Open 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 22:30; Sun 12:00 - 22:30. (60-110zł).   

## ASIAN

### INAZIA

Formerly known as The Oriental, the Sheraton has changed the name and spruced things up, with chef Marcin Sasin offering an array of dishes from throughout Asia (think Thailand to Singapore, China to Vietnam). Expect sleek interiors worthy of its location and the option to have 3- and 6-course tasting menus. That said, the wok street food might be their secret weapon, with high-quality ingredients whipped up in the same quick wok style that

you'd find on the streets of Asia. Here's a hot tip: book your table online and get a nice discount on your meal. ► H-9, ul. Prusa 2 (Sheraton Warsaw Hotel), tel. (+48) 22 450 67 06, [www.restauracja-inazia.pl](http://www.restauracja-inazia.pl). Open 17:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:30 - 16:30. (45-285zł).

## ONGGI

Korean cuisine is on the fast track to becoming the new 'it' food in the capital and with places like ONGGI opening up we have absolutely no objections. This stylish and spacious restaurant is meticulously designed with warm woods, bamboos and many interesting Korean accents. The pristine environs are well balanced with the complex and intriguing flavours found in their many ambitious dishes. Try some chapchae, savoury and spicy BBQ, some classic tofu kimchi or succulent marinated beef bulgogi. What started as only a buffet concept has now expanded into an impressive and expansive a la carte menu (with exceptional 35zł lunch sets from 11:45-17:00 Mon - Fri). ► F-5, ul. Moliera 2/4, Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 551 01 11. Open 11:45 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (35-55zł).

## BALKAN

### BANJALUKA

Head here for monstrous portions of the best Balkan food in town. This central spot means the city's officebots have discovered a great new Mon-Fri lunch special, with 19.90zł (15.90zł for the vegetarian option) filling you with a new daily menu that sounds like what a small wrestling team might take down: start with fish soup, enjoy a meaty main and there's even baklava for dessert (they also have new breakfast specials between 10:00 - 13:00). Don't miss the Live music Mon-Sat from 20:00 (Sun starts at 18:00) and on Sundays they have a nanny that puts on a real kiddie show from 13:00 - 17:00 so you can feast in peace. ► F-7, ul. Szkolna 2/4, Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 828 10 60, [www.banjaluca.pl](http://www.banjaluca.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:30, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (25-50zł).

## BRITISH

### Ę RYBĘ

Many have tried and all have failed in the quest to bring a good quality and decently priced British style 'chippie' to Warsaw. The ex-pat community were howling like a pack of hungry wolves when the news arrived that the Poznań based fish & chip shop were setting up a branch in the centre. The general consensus is that it's as close as anyone has come to the authentic item, with their freshly battered cod, salmon, pollock, chunky chips and a selection of homemade sauces (not to mention their salads and tortillas). Applause is in order as it's very good indeed but still doesn't come close to the genuine article purchased from some old seaside joint in the UK. ► E-7, Al. Jana Pawła II 18, Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 572 93 00 03, [www.erybe.pl](http://www.erybe.pl). Open 11:30 - 22:00, Fri 11:30 - 23:00, Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (10-30zł).



# CZERWONY WIEPRZ

## The last secrets of communist cuisine...







### NEW MILLENNIUM AWARD

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# Restaurants

## QUICK EATS & DELIVERY



Tukan Salad Bar

### BAR SALAD STORY

Fast food gets the health treatment in Salad Story, a chain of outlets serving salads, sandwiches and soups. Also at ul. Krucza 41/43 (G-7), ul. Nowy Świat 18/20 (G-8) and ul. Polna 46 (F-10). ► **E-8, ul. Złota 59 (Złote Tarasy), M Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 883 64 44 45, www.saladstory.com. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00. (10-23zł).** ☺ ☹ ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹

### GROOLE

Groole makes straightforward baked potatoes and heaps them with the toppings of your choosing. The new space is infinitely larger (meaning you won't feel the stifling heat of the potato roaster on your face) and has plenty of seating. The staff will helpfully guide you through your topping choices in English (gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options all available) and we recommend the Bryndza, a potato smothered with tangy Polish sheep's milk cheese, yogurt and chives. Also at ul. Nowy Świat 35 (G-7) and ul. Ciołka 11A (Wola). ► **G-10, ul. Śniadeckich 8, M Politechnika, tel. (+48) 795 63 36 26, www.groole.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 13:00 - 20:00. (15-22zł).** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

### PYSZNE.PL

If a day of Warsaw sightseeing has burned you out then log on to pyszne.pl and with a few clicks you can order and pay for delivery without getting up from the sofa. Their website features a list of hundreds of participating restaurants featuring the full gamut of Polish and World cuisine. The site automatically calibrates to your location and shows you the closest options and the estimated time of delivery. Isn't laziness delicious! ► **www.pyszne.pl. Check the opening hours of the particular restaurant you are ordering from to make sure the order can be carried out.**

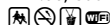
### TUKAN SALAD BAR

Tasty tubs of salad, pre-packed sandwiches and the like served in a generic, chrome-heavy setting. A lunch-break institution amongst office bods. Also on ul. Wołoska 12 (Galeria Mokotów) and at the Warszawa Centralna (E-8) Train Station. ► **E-5, ul. Żurawia 32/34, M Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 625 15 16, www.saladbar.pl. Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. (15-20zł).** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## LEGENDS BRITISH BAR & RESTAURANT

Legends is settling gently into its rhythm as the thinking (and eating) man's football watching venue of choice. Basically has two things going for it: good British grub (a steak and kidney to relish is served), British ales and Sky Sports (if the waitress can work out which channel is showing what). What it needs now are a few pints spilt on the floor and a few rowdy evenings to knock off the 'new' look. Find it a stone's throw south of the Marriott hotel.

► **F-9, ul. Emilii Plater 25, M Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 622 46 40, www.legendsbar.pl. Open 10:30 - 21:00, Fri 10:30 - 22:00, Sat 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (25-50zł).**



## CZECH

### ČESKÁ PIVNI RESTAURANT

The Czech Beer and Culinary experience has finally been corporatised and franchised at this popular city centre restaurant. As much as we'd like to hate this place for its sterilised atmosphere, average food and sub par service - the Pilsner is the real deal and served up fast, cold and as foamy as you like (go half and half). So in summary, it has most of the qualities of authentic Czech places minus the McCzech corporate packaging. Since the prices are competitive and portions quite large, this turns out to be a great spot for a mid-day city escape or an early evening Urquell session. ► **F-8, ul. Chmielna 35, M Centrum, tel. (+48) 602 33 34 44, www.ceska.pl. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri 11:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (26-39zł).** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

### U SZWEJKA

This aging establishment, equipped with Czech street signs and images of simpleton Szwejk, is a bit of a Warsaw classic, and while it looks brash and basic the food is fine and the portions are scary. The steak is inconsistent, so best stick to ordering standards like sausages and schnitzel, and if you've been before it's worth paying them another visit as they change their seasonal menu every 2-3 weeks. Patience is a good tactic to use with the staff, but there's certainly no criticism of the Pilsner on draught - cut the dismal waiting times by ordering in steins. They also have nightly live music from 19:30 plus they offer a nanny service 14:00 - 18:00 on Sundays. ► **G-10, Pl. Konstytucji 1, M Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 339 17 10, www.uszwejka.pl. Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. (19-49zł).** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## FRENCH

### LE VICTORIA BRASSERIE MODERNE

Located inside the Victoria Hotel, Le Brasserie sparkles with a sophisticated colour scheme of beige, creams and greys. Black and white light fittings, orange highlights, window-like mirrors and comfy geometric seating add a warm and spacious feel to Didier Gomez's design. The slick open kitchen area draws your eye to the work of chef Maciej Majewski and his team as they prepare seasonally adjusted dishes based on classic and modern brasserie-



style French cuisine. Prices are seriously competitive with nearby restaurants, making it an attractive proposition for a stylish and upmarket dinner date or business lunch. ► F-6, ul. Królewska 11, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 657 83 82, [www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com](http://www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com). Open 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. (18-78zł).

## FUSION

### FUSION

Beautifully presented food in the modern, if regularly quiet, interiors of the Westin hotel. The food here is very good, if a tad pricey compared to city restaurants, but you get what you pay for, with everything being of a superior quality. Regular seasonal specials based around particular ingredients keep happy local foodies coming back for more. Don't miss their Business Lunch Mon-Fri 12:00-16:00 starting at 39zł. ► D-7, Al. Jana Pawła II 21 (The Westin Hotel), **M** Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 450 86 31, [www.restauracjafusion.pl](http://www.restauracjafusion.pl). Open 06:30 - 10:30, 12:00 - 22:30; Sat 07:00 - 11:00, 12:00 - 22:30; Sun 07:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 22:30. (39-129zł).

## INDIAN

### BOLLYWOOD LOUNGE

A combined restaurant, club and hookah lounge ideally situated on lively Nowy Świat and more popular than ever. The menu features authentic and aromatic meat and vegetarian dishes, plus a range of Indo-Chinese and Kashmiri fusion courses, all excellently prepared by chefs from northern India. Drop in Mon-Sat for their lunch menu from 12:00 - 16:00 (21,99 zł) and Sundays before 17:00 get a 30% discount on the whole menu. Stay late and find yourself amidst a mixed crowd of folks either pretending they're extras in a Bollywood production while the house DJ's spin a range of Indo-Oriental tunes. ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 58, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 827 02 83, [www.bollywoodlounge.pl](http://www.bollywoodlounge.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. (28-48zł).

### BUDDHA INDIAN RESTAURANT

Buddha really impressed when they opened up a couple of years back giving us very good Indian food right in the heart of the city. The newly renovated interiors are lush and extravagant, and the curries follow a similar suit with a spicy slap that puts them at the top of our list. The rest of the menu is monstrous, but helpfully benchmarked with symbols for hot, vegetarian and even kid-friendly dishes. Don't miss their weekday lunch specials from 12:00 - 15:30 for just 20 zł! ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 23, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 35 01, [www.buddha.info.pl](http://www.buddha.info.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:30, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:30. (28-44zł).

Full contents online:  
[warsaw.inyourpocket.com](http://warsaw.inyourpocket.com)

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## MILK BARS

Don't expect a gastronomic experience. Do expect a rare insight into Eastern-Bloc Poland. Subsidised by the state, this was food for the masses back in the day. With the fall of communism many bar mleczny found themselves forced out of business although a few of these canteens have survived and, aside from offering an interesting diversion for amateur anthropologists, they make it possible to eat lots in return for a handful of coins. Value is value wherever you are. Queue up at the counter, peruse the choice of soups, meat and veg on offer before placing your order, then watch in awe as matronly ladies serve up everything from budget excellence to bowls of slime. One tip is to go earlier as the choice and quality in some tends to fall as the day progresses.

### BAR MLECZNY FAMILIJNY

► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 39, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 45 79. Open 07:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 17:00. (3-13zł).

### MLECZARNIA JEROZOLIMSKA






Also at ul. Emilii Plater 47 (E-8), ul. Bagatela 15, ul. Sienna 63, and ul. Nowowiejska 6. ► G-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 32, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 602 38 17 34, [www.mleczarniajerolimska.pl](http://www.mleczarniajerolimska.pl). Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. (4-20zł).

# Restaurants







## BURGERS

The latest culinary fad to dominate the city will please carnivorous folks: the two-handed burger is top of the heap, and there's no shortage of great establishments slinging the city's best patties.





### BARN BURGER

Decorated like a college common room with cult movie posters and some random Americana, Barn Burger has convinced plenty of coeds to ditch their diets and dive into juicy cheeseburgers or even the aptly-named 'Heart Attack' burger (mmm, bacon!). Every sandwich is partnered with chubby fries and a cup of coleslaw, and you're a champ if you can finish the entire wooden tray's worth of food before you. Check out their new second location as well at ul. Zgoda 5. ▶ F-7, ul. Złota 9,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 888 22 27 50, [www.barnburger.pl](http://www.barnburger.pl). Open 12:00 - 21:30, Sat 13:00 - 21:30, Sun 13:00 - 20:30. (19-39zł).    

### BURGER BAR

The space is small and the lines are long, but Burger Bar's simple list of classic burgers makes up for what the location lacks (namely sides and a decent beverage selection). Choose from the chalkboard menu – we've had the juicy cheeseburger more than once – and tell the chef your selection. If the only other employee is on the phone he'll ask you to pay later rather than handle your money, so grab a seat at one of the four odd tables and buckle up: this is a contender for Warsaw's best burger, and you're going to need both hands and plenty of napkins. Also they just opened a Chinese take-out joint next door called Pekin Express Duck & More. Also on ul. Krucza 41/43. ▶ H-15, ul. Puławska 74/80,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 780 09 40 76, [www.burgerbar.waw.pl](http://www.burgerbar.waw.pl). Open 12:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 22:00. (20-60zł).     

## NAMASTE INDIA

What began as a modest Indian-owned grocery store soon expanded into a full-on ethnic restaurant and proved so popular that a second location was needed to meet the demand for delicious Indian cuisine. For office workers around town, this – the newly expanded original location – remains the best, and we'll agree that it simply doesn't get much better for Indian food in the capital. Better still, the prices are set so low you can't help but ask what's the catch. There isn't one; we've tried pretty much everything on the menu, and have yet to find a weak link. Consider ringing ahead for takeaway because waiting times can be torture and ask about booking their new private room for parties and meetings. ▶ G-8, ul. Nowogrodzka 15,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 357 09 39, [www.namasteindia.pl](http://www.namasteindia.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (20-40zł).   





## OM SIENNA

We like when little places open with the minimum of fuss, no outpourings of rambling orgasmic love from Warsaw's trendy food bloggers or budgets of millions of zlotys for over the top design concepts AND still manage to hit the nail on the head with some great food. OM may be tiny (seven tables) but the Nepalese chefs cook up some fine traditional dishes from Nepal, India and Thailand. We ordered the chefs special of C Momo; Nepalese chicken dumplings in a rich and aromatic red pepper and onion sauce, a warming tummy filler which came in at only 18zł. Simply decorated in warm colours, friendly staff plus a nice and calm, family style atmosphere ▶ D-8, ul. Sienna 86,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 247 85 97, [www.omrestauracja.pl](http://www.omrestauracja.pl). Open 11:00 - 22:30. (25-70zł).   

## INTERNATIONAL

### BAZAR KOCHA

Marcin Koch is not afraid to follow his heart and his stomach. Having quit the financial world he moved to Paris to study at Le Cordon Bleu School of Culinary Arts and honed his skills in Tuscany, Barcelona and Hong Kong. The interior of his bistro/deli is a stylish mix of modern rural with a hint of industrial. The freshest ingredients, constantly changing menu, wicked presentation, a deli area selling a range of their own products, cakes and bread and some seriously bizarre, 'bazar' juice mixes! ▶ G-10, ul. Mokotowska 33/35,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 102 20 70, [www.bazarkocha.pl](http://www.bazarkocha.pl). Open 09:00 - 23:00, Mon 12:00 - 23:00. (29-89zł).     

### BESAMIM

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews is by far one of the most attractive new buildings in the city, so it comes as no surprise that the museum eatery is also something quite special. Self-service it may be, but it's a stylish and quality venture. Enjoy a coffee, cake or sandwich in the foyer area, or enjoy lunch while sitting in the smart dining room area. The menu comprises of a selection of Jewish, Israeli, Polish and Kosher options (certified by the Chief Rabbi of Poland). A brilliant stop off point during your visit around the museum or well worth navigating the museum's airport-like security just to enjoy the restaurant itself. ▶ D-4, ul. Anielewicz 6,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 606 74 41 66, [www.restauracjabesamim.pl](http://www.restauracjabesamim.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Wed, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Tue. (8-38zł).    

### BEZ TYTUŁU

Ul. Poznańska continues its hefty onslaught to become one of the hippest streets in the city centre with the opening of this elegant restaurant and cocktail bar. The restaurant is owned by partnership, Julien Barbotin-Larrieu and Kasia Michalski, who also run the contemporary art space – The Kasia Michalski Gallery – in the foyer of this gloriously renovated townhouse. The space combines a number of intimate areas all linked by 'untitled' (Bez Tytułu) artworks from their collection. Head chef, Erwan may bring his French culinary expertise to the Debono, e kitchen but this is

a man who brilliantly combines the best international and local produce for his unique signature dishes. Ms. Michalski is certainly raising the art meets fine dining experience to a truly international level in the city. ► F-9, ul. Poznańska 16, **M Centrum**, tel. (+48) 22 251 52 88, [www.beztytulu.com](http://www.beztytulu.com). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. (40-60zł).

## BIERHALLE

Bierhalle have 4 locations in the city of which this is the more central. Located on the equivalent of Warsaw's main street, you'll find bench seating, generous portions of good food and a tasty range of in-house brewed beers. Match a stein of fresh pils with something from their picture menu which features local favourites like pierogi, pork knuckle and kaszanka (a kind of black pudding) as well as dishes more often associated with Poland's beer drinking neighbours; German Wurst, Austrian Schnitzel and Hungarian Goulash. Simple, accessible and with regular promotions make this a popular spot. Also at (C-2, Arkadia) Al. Jana Pawła II 82, in Wilanów on ul. Klimczaka 1, (F-10, Hala Koszyki) ul. Koszykowa 63 and (G-9) ul. Marszałkowska 55/73. ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 64, **M Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**, tel. (+48) 609 67 77 65, [www.bierhalle.pl](http://www.bierhalle.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:45, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:45, Sun 12:00 - 21:45. (18-50zł).

## BOSKA PRAGA

This is the type of upscale multipurpose venue that Praga has been lacking and most certainly deserves. The multilevel lofted restaurant offers plenty of space for elegant wining and dining while also providing some cosy corners to curl up with a laptop and coffee. Their extensive menu is truly impressive if not a bit exhaustive with everything from wood fired pizza, sleek salads and artisanal burgers to cutting edge meaty mains and exotic specials. Don't miss their breakfast menu 08:30 - 11:30 (Mon-Fri) and 09:00 - 12:00 (Sat-Sun) or lunch specials served 11:30 - 16:00 (Mon-Fri). Head downstairs to the basement bar for a bit of standup, a private party or to simply disappear into your beer. *Boska* means divine and it's not just a line. ► I-4, ul. Stefana Okrzei 23, **M Dworzec Wileński**, tel. (+48) 22 404 54 89, [www.boskapraga.pl](http://www.boskapraga.pl). Open 08:30 - 22:00, Fri 08:30 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00. (26-40zł).

## BUBBLES




Bubbles is a rustic and cozy little venue where the moment you enter you just feel perfectly at home. The core philosophy here is that fine sparkling wines and Champagnes are not the preserve of the elite, but are the perfect accompaniment to a wide range of culinary delights and should be available to everyone. Dimly lit refrigerators contain fabulous cheeses and meats from Poland, Spain, Italy, France and most products are sourced from small eco-producers around Poland - even the snails come from a farm in the Mazurian lakes! Try a flute of bubbly with the simple perfection of the Swiss raclette - scraped melted cheese served with potatoes, marinated onions, gherkins

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





# Restaurants

and red peppers. ► F-5, Pl. Piłsudskiego 9,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 512 54 09 13, [www.bubbles.com.pl](http://www.bubbles.com.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. (32-69zł).  







## ENDORFINA FOKSAL

Located in a giant mansion at the end of Foksal Street, Endorfina Foksal is what we imagine dining in a museum is like. The high ceilings and long hallways make for an impressive space. The exquisite and opulent environs are also reflected in the modern menu which presents some of the best trends in new-wave Polish and European cuisine. This is the perfect spot for splashing out on a special occasion or if you just want to feel like a celebrity/royalty for a night. Simply divine. ► H-7, ul. Foksal 2,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 827 54 11, [www.endorfinafoksal.pl](http://www.endorfinafoksal.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (50-100zł).     

## FLAMBEERIA







Our beer goggles latched onto the word 'BEER' in the name, so we assumed this would be a Flemish style beer bar - how wrong we were! What we found instead was a minimalist, wood and brick bistro, with a beautiful broken tile mosaic floor, offering Tarte flambée - a traditional flat bread from Alsace, piled with toppings and baked in a wood-burning oven. As well as the original - featuring crème fraîche, sweet onions and smoked bacon - they offer a number of their own variations, like gorgonzola, pear and lavender flowers. Keeping with the times they have offer vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. Wash one down with the ideal accompaniment, a glass of white wine. Don't miss their weekday lunches Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00; small 19zł, large 26zł. ► F-9, ul. Hoża 61 (entrance from ul. E. Plater 12/14),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 730 26 77 72. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Mon, Sun 12:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (18-31zł).     

## GRAND KREDENS

Few places in Warsaw match this for a fine, dare we say splendid dining experience. The recently revamped decor is delightfully eclectic and the menu - with a terrific variety of fish (amongst much else) to savour - is well up to the challenge of its rivals which includes even getting on board with the kiddo playground corner. It is not by any means the cheapest place in town, but we would be fairly certain that however big the bill, you will leave feeling well satisfied. This has been around Warsaw longer than we have and it's a treat. ► D-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 111,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 80 08, [www.kredens.com.pl](http://www.kredens.com.pl). Open 10:00 - 23:00. (30-100zł).     

## INFORMAL KITCHEN

The popularity of this restaurant only proves that they're getting everything right: the spacious and bright bistro atmosphere, the well attired and highly competent staff (all of whom speak English), the brilliant chefs in the kitchen, and the heavy emphasis on creating "comfort food" inspired by travel experiences, family get-togethers,

and other social eating events - Nigel Slater would be doing somersaults across the bleached wooden floor! All ingredients are sourced from Polish and European producers with excellent eco credentials and the menu changes regularly, depending on the availability of seasonal products. ► F-6, Pl. Małachowskiego 2 (entrance from ul. Traugutta),  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 531 91 85 34, [www.informalkitchen.pl](http://www.informalkitchen.pl). Open 08:30 - 22:00, Fri 08:30 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (35-69zł).     

## KRYSTIAN'S KITCHEN

Krystian built their brand on the back of their fresh-baked breads, baguettes, and rolls as well as one of the better breakfast menus in town. Now they've expanded their menu to include all sorts of a la carte dining options from pastas to salads to lamb starters and of course the ever ubiquitous burgers (chicken and veggie options available). Portions are sizable, prices are small (19-43zł) and their central Plac Trzech Krzyży location is easily accessible. Their experienced team of professionals will make sure your dining experience is exemplary no matter what time of day you stop in. ► H-8, ul. Książęca 6,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 628 63 45, [www.krystianskitchen.pl](http://www.krystianskitchen.pl). Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. (19-43zł).     

## MIEDZY USTAMI FOOD & WINE

Once in a blue moon someone with a wicked and unique design vision is let loose on the Warsaw restaurant/bar scene and comes up with a stunning and original looking venue - MU is such a place. The ground level area is a heady mix of decadent 19th century palace with glamorous frescoes and sumptuous deep colours. Once you've gotten over the sheer beauty of the place, delve into the menu of signature tapas style dishes, marvel at the innovative cocktail list and just let the whole ambience wash over you. The basement area has been converted into a modern wine cellar with space-age argon wine taps that allow you to order shockingly expensive vintages by the glass. The addition of DJ's and live events on the weekends add to the whole creative vibe of this classy venue. ► G-10, ul. Mokotowska 33/35,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 530 32 33 25. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (12-47zł).     

## MIŁOŚĆ

There's a lot to love about Miłość (love in Polish). This large two levelled café/eatery/club is really onto something with a slick Scandinavian-style retro bar, a raised DJ area with a wall of climbing greenery, and a bookcased space, complete with tatty rug, armchairs and a geometric coffee table, which makes you think of a professor's reading room circa 1970. The food is fantastically eclectic and wonderfully inventive. Upstairs you'll find local indie record label Asfalt's very own record shop. Warsaw's nomadic artsy crowd are already flooding in. ► F-6, ul. Kredytowa 9,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 657 21 83. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 05:00. (12-29zł).     



# BIERHALLE

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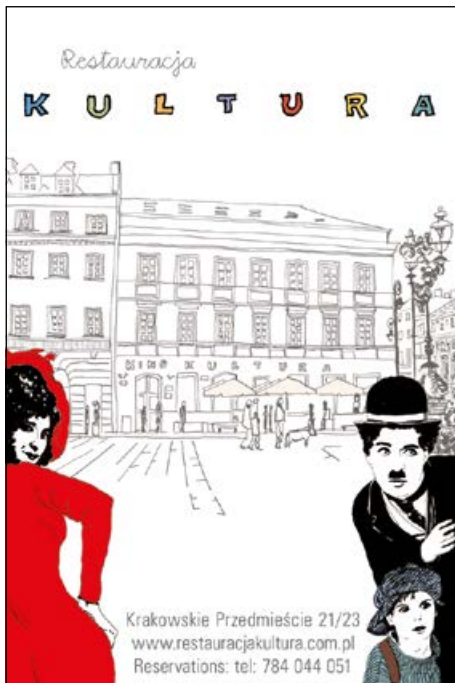


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- NOWY ŚWIAT 64
- MARSZAŁKOWSKA 55
- KLIMCZAKA 1 (WILANÓW)
- KRÓLEWSKA 1

# Restaurants

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## NADWIŚLAŃSKI ŚWIT


Named after a track by the enigmatic and long departed rock singer Czesław Niemen, the name Nadwiślański Świt (Daybreak over the Wisła) also references the proximity of this trendy bistro bar to the mighty river itself. Located in the former lobby bar area of a late 1960's Warsaw hotel, original design elements of the era blend in nicely with the overall contemporary look of the interior. You'll find an extensive menu of modern European dishes, a range of classic burgers, seafood, pizza and pasta options. "X Buffs" will be well impressed with the range of tap and bottled regional brews and be sure to sample the elusive Chyliczki Stary Sad cider or the immensely popular 'Podlasie 75' cocktail. ▶ I-6, Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 31/33, **M**Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 733 18 58 12. Open 10:00 - 22:00; Fri, Sat 10:00 - 23:00. Lunch is served Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00, 19.90zł (soup + pizza) 24.90 zł (soup + main dish). (18-59zł). 

## PÓŁNOC-POŁUDNIE

This beautiful bistro bridges the boundaries of Northern and Southern European culinary traditions while fusing the Polish past and present. Their breakfast, lunch (sometimes brunch) specials change daily and never disappoint. This edible poetry is further elevated by sublime wines and original drinks. The open kitchen and family-friendly atmosphere removes any semblance of snobbery that you may find in other places with similar calibre food and drink. This may just be the spot the puts Plac Uni on Warsaw's culinary map for good. ▶ H-12, ul. Bagatela 10, **M**Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 114 31 13, www.pn-pd.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00. (31-69zł). 

## NEW

## RESTAURACJA AKADEMIA

Fabulously bright 'n white interior with a beautiful rustic wooden floor, Akademia oozes quality. Polish traditional classics - which tend to avoid the popular international tweakings - hold their own alongside interesting European dishes. Fish fans will be delighted with the fine range of seafood offerings. They even had wolf fish cheeks (warning! don't look at pictures of this fish, it's one ugly but delicious sea monster), served with chorizo, snap peas and faba beans on the menu. The highly trained, smart and knowledgeable staff also deserve an all-round standing ovation. As befitting this standard of restaurant - which is refreshingly reasonably priced - the comprehensive wine list runs the financial spectrum; from reasonable to 'take out a second mortgage and juggle your credit card accounts' offerings. ▶ H-14, ul. Różana 2, **M**Racławicka, tel. (+48) 22 828 99 11, www.restauracjaakademia.pl. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (16-129zł). 

## RESTAURACJA KULTURA

On the ground floor of Kino Kultura, and therefore commanding one of the greatest locations on all of Krakowskie, the Kultura makes good use of the space by serving food that lives up to its surroundings. Smart waitresses whiz around the recently renovated restaurant

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carrying plates of roasted duck to your table before presenting you with a bill that should, given the quality, be far higher. ► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 21/23, **M** Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 784 04 40 51, [www.restauracjakultura.pl](http://www.restauracjakultura.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (29-69zł).

## SAM BAKERY & RESTAURANT

Fresh baked bread, plentiful salads, a shop with organic herbs and superfoods like acai...it's safe to say that SAM has arrived in Warsaw with some strong credentials, and after our visit we can declare it the Charlotte of the student set. You'll find the same lackadaisical service and hipster clientele as the popular Pl. Zbawiciela hotspot, and if you can overlook these flaws you'll be delighted with healthy dishes that ensure you'll forever be able to squeeze into those skinny jeans. Also at Twarda 2/4 and ul. Rydygiera 9C in Żoliborz. ► H-6, ul. Lipowa 7A, **M** Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 600 80 60 84, [www.sam.info.pl](http://www.sam.info.pl). Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (15-35zł).

## SKETCH W TEATRZE WIELKIM

Our memories of old Sketch on ul. Foksal consist of fat Belgian fries and overpriced global bottled beers. Well, now they've made the move to the even more glam surroundings of Plac Piłsudskiego. The large interior is a pop art and post modern mix up of design and the attractive menu is a whirlwind tour of recognisable world dishes. Their popular weekday lunches from 12:00 - 17:00 fill up quite regularly and with good reason. The drinks range includes over 21 beers and the brilliant kids area includes art materials for little people with a creative mind of their own and a Playstation and Sports on the TVs for those who don't (with a babysitter on the weekends no less). ► F-5, Pl. Piłsudskiego 9, **M** Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 602 76 27 64, [www.sketch.pl](http://www.sketch.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (29-64zł).

## SOLEC 44

Solec 44 marries two of the best things around at one location: delicious food and the joy of beating the crap out of your friends at board games. Come for the grub – which is a delectable menu of fresh, local and seasonal options – but stay for the chance to crack into Settlers of Catan or Scrabble with a beer in hand. The freshly renovated space (which can be tough to find and is tucked behind a kebab shop) is sprawling and ideal for long evenings of dice rolling and they pretty much keep the lights on till a clear victor has emerged, which, after a night in Solec, is pretty much everyone. ► I-7, ul. Solec 44, **M** Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 798 36 39 96, [www.solec.waw.pl](http://www.solec.waw.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Mon 16:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (29-95zł).

Full contents online:  
[warsaw.inyourpocket.com](http://warsaw.inyourpocket.com)

## LITTLE SICILY IN THE HEART OF WARSAW



*Welcome to our Italian restaurant, which is guided by one maxim: "La famiglia è il più importante" – Family is most important and our guests are our "famiglia".*

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# Restaurants

## STREFA RESTAURANT & BAR

The award winning Strefa oozes old style glamour from the exterior and a cool, modern, whitewashed brick and pale colour scheme interior. Nothing is over the top and the more informal bar area compliments the stunningly designed restaurant room beautifully. The kitchen in the main restaurant is helmed by award winning chef Jarosław Walczyk and specialises in a wide range of original signature dishes. The ambience, quality and standard of service more than justify the borderline high prices and as an added bonus they are also pet friendly! ▶ E-7, ul. Próżna 9, **M** Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 255 08 50, [www.restauracjastrefa.pl](http://www.restauracjastrefa.pl). Open 10:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. (29-99zł).    

## WINESTONE





The Mercure Hotel's concept restaurant has proven itself a popular venue for the local business set. The name 'Winestone' comes from the menu's selection of 'Les Planches' - dishes served on simple stone tablets, and the incredible range of fine wines in stock here. The menu also covers a range of seasonally changing international and French style dishes, as well as some modern interpretations of Polish classics. Presentation is slick and the staff are wonderfully polite and professional. The relaxing and modern interior was recently expanded (22 more seats!), is perfectly unstuffy and features Warsaw's must have restaurant design element of the year - the open kitchen. There is also a shop for taking home olives, wine and bread of your own following your meal. (Also located on ul. Krucza 28 in the Mercure Warszawa Grand). ▶ E-8, ul. Złota 48/54, **M** Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 697 37 55, [www.mercure.com](http://www.mercure.com). Open 10:00 - 23:00. (14-74zł).    

## WINIARNIA RESTAURACJA SUPERIORE

This restaurant and Wine bar finds itself a few doors down from Krystyna Janda's (just nod and pretend you know that she's a very famous Polish actress) Teatr Polonia, making it an excellent choice for a few pre-performance aperitifs and a bite to eat. The interior is slick rustic with the shelves of wine bottles making up much of the décor. Italian wines take priority here, but you'll also find a good selection of Spanish, French and Austrian wines. The heavenly aromas wafting from the kitchen will pull you, trance-like, towards the menu. ▶ G-10, ul. Piękna 28/34, **M** Politechnika, tel. (+48) 506 40 40 59, [www.superiorewinebar.pl](http://www.superiorewinebar.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (25-80zł).    

## WINOSFERA

Coming across as somewhat of a cultural centre for wine lovers, including a cinema, piano bar, theatre, rotating fine art gallery and of course wine shop. Best considered a number of ventures under one roof, all linked by the humble grape. The raw brickwork and plaster grey interior has all the modern charm of a re-fitted factory space and features the 'must have' current trend of the open kitchen. Head chef, Jakub Adamczyk, previously worked at London's 'The Square' (two Michelin stars) and the legendary 'Amber Room' in Warsaw. Expect culinary magic from the short and perfectly

constructed menu. The clean and perfect presentation of their dishes (try the beef sirloin with artichokes, Porto sauce, chanterelles and salsify) are rapidly turning the restaurant into one of Warsaw's top eateries. ▶ C-7, ul. Chłodna 31, **M** Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 526 25 00, [www.winosfera.pl](http://www.winosfera.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. (42-96zł).    

## ŻURAWINA REST

Stylish and spacious, this upscale resto wine bar looks like it should be attached to a modern art museum and is about as fashionable as they come, while still maintaining a level of casual comfort that won't put off those of us who don't spend half our paychecks on our hair. Elegant place settings, fresh flowers and gorgeously presented dishes. Choose from sexy drinks and desserts, or dive into to-die-for dishes. They recently launched a decadent breakfast buffet Mon - Fri 08:00 - 11:30 and weekends 09:00 - 14:00 (22.90zł) while their a la carte menu is available all week. The place of choice for well-bred Varsovians on rich dates, business meetings and mixers, in the evening it's a great cocktail and wine bar (with live music on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat starting at 20:30). ▶ G-8, ul. Żurawia 32/34, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 521 06 66, [www.zurawina.eu](http://www.zurawina.eu). Open 08:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri 08:00 - 01:00, Sat 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (32-89zł).    

## ITALIAN

### DZIURKA OD KLUCZA

Pixie-sized family run restaurant located on a lovely pre-war street in Powiśle. With everything handmade on the premises, Agnieszka and Stanisław Szpilowscy have successfully turned their passion for pasta into a full-time business. The process is on full view thanks to the open kitchen and nattering away with the cooks while they work makes for a friendly and casual atmosphere. 'Dziurka od Klucza' means 'keyhole' and much of the interior is made up of old doors and any opportunity to add a key to the décor isn't missed. Slightly mumsy violet and lavender pastel colours help to make the place look bigger than it actually is; in fact, it's best to avoid if you suffer from claustrophobia! ▶ H-6, ul. Radna 13, **M** Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 500 15 04 94, [www.dziurkaodklucza.com.pl](http://www.dziurkaodklucza.com.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (19-42zł).    

### FOCACCIA RISTORANTE

The restaurant is housed in the 16th century Hotel Bellotto, just a sabre's swipe from the Old Town tourist checkpoint of Zygmunt's column (they offer clients coveted free parking as well). The interior is a modern, airy and uncluttered space with admirable attention to detail. In keeping with the zeitgeist, the traditionally inspired Italian menu is booted well into the 21st century with the chef's modernist tweaking which they also offer offsite for catering engagements. They recently opened a patisserie (open daily 8:00 - 22:00) called 'Miodowa' (Honey) which features a vast dessert menu all based on honey. Try the 5 dessert tasting menu for 50 zł. ▶ F-5, ul. Senatorska 13/15, **M** Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 829 69 69, [www.focaccia.pl](http://www.focaccia.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (34-65zł).    

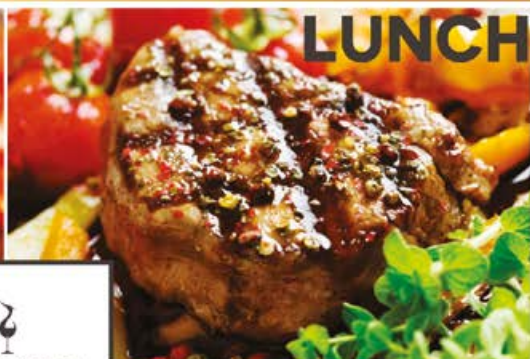




  
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# Restaurants






## MAKARONI

Slightly larger than a chipboard packing crate with a window in one side, Makaroni actually takes a pretty nifty approach to serving up your favourite pasta shapes with your own choice of sauces and additions. Their no frills and staunchly eco approach means that their dishes contain no preservatives or monosodium glutamate and everything comes served in biodegradable noodle style cartons with eco-friendly cutlery. The interior only has a shelf-like window seating area with a small outdoor seating area which will surely be gone come winter. The staggeringly low prices mean you can eat a filling carton of saucy pasta for the price of a cappuccino in most other places. Also at Al. Niepodległości 150 lok. U30. ► H-12, ul. Puławska 11 lok. 17B (entrance from ul. Goworka),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 535 98 04 62, [www.pyszneamakaroni.pl](http://www.pyszneamakaroni.pl). Open 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. (10-12zł).    

## MERCATO (ITALIAN DELI/BISTRO)

A traditionally designed Italian bistro and deli with the added authenticity of a mixed clientele of diners, shoppers, manic staff and a constant air of something's going on but you're never quite sure what. The deli section is stocked with a great range of products, sourced mainly from small regional producers in Italy. The kitchen uses the products available from the shelves, fridges and hanging from meat-hooks in the extensive range of bruschetta, panini and salads on offer. We recommend the extremely popular, well-priced and ever changing two course hot lunch deal nicely complemented by their expansive wine menu. ► E-7, ul. Prózna 7,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 509 00 78 03, [www.mercatobar.pl](http://www.mercatobar.pl). Open 08:30 - 22:00, Fri 08:30 - 23:00, Sat 10:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (16-39zł).    

## RISTORANTE REPUBBLICA ITALIANA






Busy Italian restaurant close to the National Stadium. Fresh and light interior and a comprehensive menu featuring seafood, meats, pastas, ravioli and salads. Tempting as everything on the menu is, it's nigh on impossible not to hit the pizza menu. Long regarded as one of the best pizza places on this side of the river, the dough is thin, not burnt to a crisp and the amounts of sauce and toppings are just right. Judging by its popularity it really is one of THE places to be seen on Saska Kępa's high street. ► L-7, ul. Francuska 44,  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 22 465 81 83, [www.repubblicaitaliana.pl](http://www.repubblicaitaliana.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:30, Sun 12:00 - 22:30. (35-66zł).    

## SEXY DUCK

Arriving pretty early in the day at 12.30, imagine our surprise to find the place a packed, feeding frenzy of customers with the fantastic smell of Italian cooking and fresh herbs in the air plus the incessant natter of happy eaters. We had to check our watches to make sure it wasn't late evening! The two level interior ticks all the boxes in terms of nicely done rustic/semi-industrial

design, that, while certainly nice, is really starting to feel a bit 'old hat' around town. As well as a list of pizza & pasta dishes, all beautifully presented in a truly rustic manner. Duck actually does make quite a few appearances on the menu so we'll forgive the slightly daffy name! ► G-10, Plac Konstytucji 3,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 400 37 37. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (24-38zł).    

## SPACCA NAPOLI

It's exciting when someone dares to take a different approach to the mass of Italian eateries in Warsaw. Spacca Napoli's restaurant and deli menus are rooted in the culinary traditions of Naples and at first glance the starters, pizzas and pasta dishes may look predictable, but it certainly manages to throw in a number of unique options. Try an orzo salad - pearl barley, aubergine, courgette, carrots, olive oil and mint, or go for a classic Neapolitan mulignana pizza. They also now offer fresh seafood and fish dishes. They're also pretty slick when it comes to the social and family atmosphere of true Italian restaurants, the lovely staff may as well pull up a pew and join in with your conversation. ► E-7, ul. Świętokrzyska 30,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 127 93 99, [www.spaccanapoli.pl](http://www.spaccanapoli.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri 12:00 - 23:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (20-50zł).    

## TRATTORIA DA ANTONIO

Sicilian born chef Antonio Centurino has been a fixture in Warsaw's Italian culinary scene for as long as we can remember and his fans will be delighted with his latest venture on ul. Żurawia. There are four spacious and elegant rooms that have recently been given the royal treatment. Being Italian, family plays an important role in the proceedings, so one of the rooms is kitted out as a play room for kids. Their comprehensive menu features some house specials alongside tried and true classics. ► G-8, ul. Żurawia 18,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 625 54 17, [www.trattoriadaantonio.pl](http://www.trattoriadaantonio.pl). Open 11:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. (30-60zł).    

## VAPIANO

The German based pizza and pasta chain's flagship eatery in Warsaw is situated in a stunningly renovated townhouse just next to the central railway station and opposite the looming Marriott Hotel. The interior has a mix of styles over two levels but the glassed patio area is a particularly impressive feature of the architecture. Everything is pretty swish and well thought out but for us old fuddy duddies, the whole concept of the quirky swipe card ordering and payment system, plus queuing at different 'food stations' to place orders manages to seriously detract from "La Dolce Vita". Constantly packed and incredibly popular with the younger set and office workers. ► E-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 63,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 852 49 65, [pl.vapiano.com](http://pl.vapiano.com). Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri 11:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (16-35zł).    

RESTAURACJA  
*AleGloria*  
Magda Gessler



AleGloria restaurant was created in the imagination of celebrity restaurateur Magda Gessler as a place to celebrate the aesthetic and culinary cult of Młoda Polska - Poland's turn-of-the-century art nouveau movement. The surreal-folk setting - full of live trees, painted strawberries and sculpted geese - will take you on an exciting trip to fanciful and obscure territories of the artistic mind. Charming surroundings are worth little, however, without well-conceived and exquisitely executed cuisine. Upon entering AleGloria, guests will witness first-hand the careful preparation of our

pierogi - with delicious fillings like veal and mushrooms, and mint and marjoram - which land on your table free of charge. Enjoy local delicacies like herring infused with bison-grass vodka, venison tartare with boletus flakes and quail yolk-mustard mousse, and delicate venison steak with smoked plum and brandy sauce. AleGloria winter menu is full of geese flavors. Delicate kałudzkie goose meat is roasted in its own fat and marinated in savoury beer giving it a delicious crispy crust, which is almost impossible to resist. We invite you to AleGloria... it's simply delicious!











# Restaurants

## VENTI TRE








At the risk of sounding like a broken record we'll say once more; some of Warsaw's finest meals are to be had in hotel restaurants, and this upscale eatery proves no different. An open plan kitchen and giant glass windows allow for a more informal atmosphere than in other five stars, while the wood-fired oven knocks out pizzas that rise well above the high street standard. Try their business lunch buffet Mon-Fri 12:00 - 15:30. They even have their own apiary on the roof which is where they get their fresh Łazienki Gold honey from which they serve at breakfast. ▶ I-13, ul. Belwederska 23 (Regent Warsaw Hotel),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 558 10 94, [www.regent-warsaw.com](http://www.regent-warsaw.com). Open 06:30 - 23:00. (55-95zł).      

## JAPANESE

### BENIHANA








From humble beginnings in New York, 'Rocky' Aoki opened his first Japanese restaurant in 1964. The chain has now grown to over 130 restaurants worldwide. Following in the style of the chain, Benihana Warsaw is a stylish and modern eatery with a rich black and red colour scheme. The front section features a Japanese/Asian restaurant area and cool cocktail bar, but venture to the back section to experience Benihana's famed Teppanyaki grill tables where highly skilled and entertaining English speaking chefs will slice, grill and season your order in front of your eyes. Being based in the Helmut Jahn designed Cosmopolitan skyscraper, we suggest you order one of their Japanese inspired, sake based Cosmopolitan cocktails to sip with your meal. ▶ E-7, ul. Twarda 4,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 370 26 20, [www.benihanapoland.com](http://www.benihanapoland.com). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (29-109zł).      

### BESUTO








Besuto has moved from among the prefab cabins and ramshackle pavilions inside Nowy Świat 27 to a more visible location just down the street at 22. The good news is the sushi, which has historically been very decent hot and cold cuts prepared in front of your eyes, is still reliably delicious, and the new storefront is significantly less likely to make your date question your commitment - the interior also gets marks for being bright and modern. The bad news is that a better location means higher prices than Besuto loyalists might be used to, but it's worth it to dig a little deeper. ▶ G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 27,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 828 00 20, [www.besuto.pl](http://www.besuto.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (21-54zł).      

### KIKU JAPANESE DINING GALLERY








Your advice when coming to this typically Japan-in-a-packet decorated place is simple: forget the sushi and just ask for the noodle menu. Never before in this city have we eaten such fresh, spicy and downright tasty noodles as we

have at Kiku. At around 25zł a bowl, a portion of noodles here - and the seafood ones are best - represents terrific value. ▶ F-5, ul. Senatorska 17/19,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 892 09 01, [www.kiku.pl](http://www.kiku.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (25-65zł).      








### SOHO SUSHI

Being located on the street level of a rather uninspiring block, it would be easy to just stroll past without noticing this neat sushi bar. That would be a bit of a shame, as inside it's a modern, stylish and well conceived little restaurant. The Japanese crew excel in tradition but are also innovative with their sushi fusion ideas, which makes it a great place to try something a bit different. With a minimum of fuss or pushy advertising they have steadily built up a die-hard following of returning customers and our regular 'sushi advisor' confidently proclaims Soho to be one of Warsaw's best kept sushi secrets. ▶ C-7, ul. Chłodna 34,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 114 45 92, [www.sohosushi.pl](http://www.sohosushi.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 22:00. (20-56zł).      

### SOTO SUSHI

Warsaw's Sushi glitterati have always rated the original Soto Sushi on Al. KEN very highly indeed, with many devotees regularly making the pilgrimage to deepest, darkest Ursynów in order to visit their favourite shrine. Well, now they don't need to bother, Soto have opened another branch in the centre of the city! The crisp white and minimal interior highlighted with pale green neon wall lighting makes for a rather sterile look which made me think of those ultra-violet fly zappers in butcher's shops, probably just my overactive imagination though. On the other hand, the overall look of this sushi bar presents a feeling of cleanliness and order which is reflected in the beautifully presented and carefully prepared sushi. The salmon tartare gunkanmaki is yummy and a special mention has to be made for the killer lemon pepper shrimp soup. ▶ G-9, ul. Wilcza 26,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 94 85, [www.sotosushi.pl](http://www.sotosushi.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (34-56zł).      

### UKI UKI

Who would have thought it? A Japanese place in Warsaw and it's not a sushi bar! Well, that's not strictly true, there is a short sushi selection on the menu but their speciality is freshly made udon noodles served in pork or fish broth with a variety of accompaniments; Tempura shrimp, stewed pork etc. Watch head chef Taira Matsuki and his skilled team preparing the dishes in the open kitchen and chat with the enthusiastic staff about the ritual of eating your noodles. Prepare yourself for a strenuous workout while grinding your sesame seeds with a traditional Japanese mortar and pestle. ▶ G-9, ul. Krucza 23/31,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 428 26 96, [www.ukiuki.pl](http://www.ukiuki.pl). Open 12:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (20-40zł).      



# THAI THAI

AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE



## GDAŃSK

OTWARCIE WKRÓTCE  
lipiec 2016

Podgarbary 10  
80-827 Gdańsk

## SOPOT

00 48 58 551 11 00  
[info@thaithai.pl](mailto:info@thaithai.pl)

Bohaterów Monte Cassino 63  
81-767 Sopot

## WARSZAWA

00 48 601 81 82 83  
[info@thaithai.waw.pl](mailto:info@thaithai.waw.pl)

Plac Teatralny 3  
00-077 Warszawa

❖ [www.thaithai.pl](http://www.thaithai.pl) ❖

# Restaurants

## LEBANESE

### LE CEDRE 84

This popular Middle Eastern staple hops across the river to a more accessible location at the intersection of Jana Pawła and al. Solidarności and thankfully brings all their reliably exotic flavours along too. The interior is a magenta masterpiece and sets the scene for you and your Scheherazade to explore the hefty menu. Our recommendation: though we're fans of the entrees like shawarma, your best bet is to mix and match hot and cold starters, of which there's a dazzling array. ► C-6, Al. Solidarności 84,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 618 89 99, [www.lecedre.pl](http://www.lecedre.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00. Lunch menu Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00 for 19zł. (35-59zł).     

## MEDITERRANEAN

### AIOLI CANTINE






Turning communist-era commercial space into an appealing dining destination is no easy illusion, but Aioli's urban canteen aesthetic turns the trick with aplomb. Dominated by two large circular bars - one around the kitchen hung with colanders and racks of prosciutto, the other an actual drink bar ringed with wine glasses - wooden furnishings dressed with fresh herbs do much to dispel the brick and concrete, while excellent service further elevates the atmosphere. The short menu of salads, sandwiches, pasta and pizza, plus some great breakfasts (daily from 09:00 - 12:00), makes the most of each option by including tantalising ingredients (many of which you can take home in jars) and the prices are very reasonable. ► F-7, ul. Świętokrzyska 18,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 657 21 26, [www.aioli-cantine.com](http://www.aioli-cantine.com). Open 09:00 - 23:30, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. (20-55zł).     

### AIOLI INSPIRED BY MINI

Evidently 'inspired' by the classic, compact design of the UK's famous MINI automotive brand, Warsaw's popular AiOLI Cantine has launched a second location on Plac Konstytucji. Don't let the name fool you, however; aside from some logo deployment, this warm, chirpy, neo-industrial space is anything but Mini. Aioli's reasonably-priced and large portioned menu offers breakfasts (daily from 09:00 - 12:00, ask about coffee specials), lunches (Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00, 19.90zł), burgers, salads, pastas, pizzas, tapas, cocktails and more remains largely the same as the original, aside from some playful upgrades. ► G-10, Pl. Konstytucji 5,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 629 25 40, [www.aioliinspiredbymini.pl](http://www.aioliinspiredbymini.pl). Open 09:00 - 23:30, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. (20-55zł).     

### LOWE

Don't be fooled by their misleading name, it's actually spelled L-O-double V-E. The extra V is either for the extra virgin olive oil they use or the extra love they put in all of their delicious seasonal dishes. The stunning fresh grilled tuna loin salad with a poached egg was light and full of flavour while the tiger prawn burger with pineapple

chutney almost knocked us out of our chair. Pair a perfect Italian or French wine and you will quickly approach the sublime. The best part about this refreshing restaurant is that with food this good, and a world class design sense you wouldn't expect a laid back and friendly atmosphere. Feel the Lov(v)e. ► F-8, ul. Poznańska 38/42,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 660 57 45 74, [www.lowe-restauracja.pl](http://www.lowe-restauracja.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. (16-45zł).    



### RESTAURACJA OLIVA

Take a well-deserved break from the racket of Nowy Świat and visit this unpretentious yet smart, light and airy restaurant on the quiet ul. Ordynacka. The Mediterranean based menu includes a healthy dose of homemade pasta dishes and pizzas which are created to their own recipes. A stand-out main dish is the stunning beef cheeks. As the name suggests, the menu is strongly influenced by the use of olive oil and the restaurant also has a display of fine olive oils from a number of countries for sale. Staff get full marks from us for neither pretending to be your best mate, nor seeing you as their worst enemy - they get it just right. Considering the ambience and quality, prices are excellent.

► G-7, ul. Ordynacka 10/12,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 70 60, [www.restauracjaoliva.pl](http://www.restauracjaoliva.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (30-68zł).    

### RESTAURACJA SZKLARNIA FOOD & WINE

'Szklarnia' is the Polish word for greenhouse, so take a wild guess what stands outside the restaurant. Their greenhouse houses a selection of vegetables, tomatoes (actually a fruit) and herbs which are used in the kitchen within minutes of being collected. Chef Natalia Huzarewicz believes in using only the freshest of seasonally available ingredients and adhering to a strict ecological approach (gluten free!) to her colourful Mediterranean-inspired signature dishes. The simple and clean interior is highlighted by an abundance of lush plant life which spills out onto the spacious terrace and in keeping with other Soho Factory ventures, there's a snazzy retro neon sign above the entrance. Don't miss their Mon-Fri lunchtime specials (soup+main 12:00 - 16:00) for only 20zł and ask about their catering services for your next party. ► ul. Mińska 25, bud. 39 (Soho Factory),  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 690 51 10 20, [www.restauracjaszklarnia.pl](http://www.restauracjaszklarnia.pl). Open 11:00 - 22:30. (22-59zł).     

### ZMIANA KLIMATU

It's becoming increasingly clear that some of the more exciting and innovative eateries in Warsaw are small places which manage to take their time in getting everything just right while patiently perfecting what they set out to achieve. Zmiana Klimatu fits right into this category. A rich and varied trip around the cuisine of the Mediterranean, which takes a gentle sail around the culinary influences of North Africa, Israel, Italy and Spain. Head chef, Jarosław Voitiuk, relishes the idea of adding his own special touches to the, mainly, seafood based dishes. Considering the quality and presentation, prices are surprisingly decent.



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## Restaurants



### Italian atmosphere on Saska Kępa



#### Ristorante Repubblica Italiana

Francuska St. 44

reservations:

+48 22 465 81 83, francuska44@repubblicaitaliana.pl

Open: Mon-Thu 12:00 - 23:00, Fri-Sat 12:00 - 24:00

Sun 12:00 - 22:30



Unless you're the sort of person who enjoys attention, try to avoid sitting in the wacky, boat shaped mezzanine level.

► G-9, ul. Krucza 16/22, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 516 99 56 90, [www.zmianaklimatu.pl](http://www.zmianaklimatu.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. (22-59zł).



## MIDDLE EASTERN

### SOKOTRA

The restaurant takes its name from the isolated Yemeni island of Sokotra, a geographic location once described as "the most alien-looking place on earth." Warsaw's Sokotra is neither isolated nor alien-looking, it's situated in the city centre and its interior is a cool modernist take on the simplest of Arabic design. Traditional Yemeni cuisine is heavily influenced by Indian, reflected by the heavy, rich and well-seasoned sauces with most of the dishes here - ideal for some serious roti dipping. The lentil, lemon and green chilli soup was stunning and the mutton, okra and tomato dish was great. There's standard table dining if you've just had your hip replaced, or try the cushioned floor sitting area for an even more authentic experience. ► G-9, ul. Wilcza 27, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 270 27 66. Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (20-40zł).



## POLISH

### ALEGLORIA

Magnificent, enjoyably over-the-top restaurant in the finest part of Warsaw where the strawberry-themed decor appears amazingly at home and where the modern Polish Fusion cuisine - often featuring strawberries and goose specialties - will leave you determined to come back for more. It is rare that a restaurant can so seamlessly present the pure pleasure and simplicity of Polish cuisine while at the same time elevating it to world-class gourmet standards. AleLujah! ► H-9, Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 584 70 80, [www.alegloria.pl](http://www.alegloria.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (45-118zł).



### ATELIER AMARO

It's not hyperbole to call Atelier Amaro one of Poland's most modern restaurants, and the folks at Michelin certainly agree; it is the first restaurant in the country to land a coveted Michelin star. All the credit goes to famed chef and owner Wojciech Modest Amaro, who describes the cuisine as "where nature meets science." That 'science' is molecular gastronomy, which means almost nothing is as it seems: an amuse-bouche arrives on the table with a flourish of dry ice fog, revealing caviar atop a surprisingly citrusy foam. Meals can be 6 (280 zł Mon-Thurs), 9 (350 zł) or 12 (420 zł) "moments" and employ traditional Polish plants like nettles and beetroot in unexpected, highly creative dishes - like juniper ice cream hugging a miniature chocolate cake with chestnuts (the menu changes almost daily). Count us as impressed that Amaro himself can be seen serving many



Krakowskie Przedmieście 64, Warsaw  
(200 m from St. Anna Church)  
[i@trzeciawaza.pl](mailto:i@trzeciawaza.pl), +48 792 909 418  
[www.trzeciawaza.pl](https://www.trzeciawaza.pl)




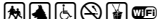
of the dishes in this intimate restaurant just inside Łazienki Park. An absolute must for diehard foodies (children under 14 years of age are not allowed any day and only 12 moment menu will be available in December). **FYI - The restaurant will be closed from Dec 22 through Jan 17.** ▶ H-11, ul. Agrykola 1,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 628 57 47, [www.atelieramaro.pl](http://www.atelieramaro.pl). Open 12:00 - 14:30, 18:00 - 22:30; Mon, Tue, Sat 18:00 - 22:30. Closed Sun.





## BELVEDERE

Nestled inside Łazienki Park, Belvedere is a romantic orangery filled with foliage and a smattering of well-dressed tables both inside and out. Having undergone a head to toe renovation, the Belvedere is a stunningly dramatic venue with peacocks wandering the grounds and multiple waiters offering first class service. The food lives up to the atmosphere, and a menu overhaul means you'll have a variety of new dishes to choose from as well as new weekday and weekend lunch menus. Few places in Warsaw are this classy or this expensive, and dare we say women are right to assume a booking here means something big is in order. ▶ I-12, ul. Agrykoli 1 (New Orangery in Łazienki Park, entrance from ul. Parkowa),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 558 67 01, [www.belvedere.com.pl](http://www.belvedere.com.pl). Open 12:00 - 16:00, 18:00 - 23:00; Sat 12:00 - 23:00; Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (74-118zł). 

## CUD MIÓD

Cud Miód is certainly keen on having something for everyone. The interior is a mix of rustic Polish/European elements with some modern style fittings. The menu is an odd mix; a host of traditionally based Polish dishes, Mediterranean offerings, seafood, fusion, burgers and even curry pops up on the list. A casual and attractive venue particularly suited to those who can peruse this type of menu and not change their minds every 30 seconds! ▶ F-9, ul. Emilii Plater 28 (entrance from ul. Nowogrodzka 56),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 30 39, [www.cudmiod.pl](http://www.cudmiod.pl). Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri 08:00 - 01:00, Sat 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 23:00. (34-78zł). 

## CZERWONY WIEPRZ

Workers of the world unite around a large choice of well-presented Socialist Bloc cuisine. Deriving its name from a former meeting place for members of the early communist movement, legend has it that even Lenin paid this place a visit in 1909. The interior is based on the style favoured by the 1950's - 1960's party elite, and the walls are bedecked with memorabilia of the era. Somehow the owners have managed to carefully side swerve tackiness and the whole experience has a lovely, faded and nostalgic glam to it. Immensely popular with locals and tourists alike (including Bruce Willis, Lennox Lewis and the Real Madrid football squad), 2012 saw 'The Hog' voted one of the 25 best and most interesting restaurants in the world by the Spanish Trade Leaders' Club. ▶ C-7, ul. Żelazna 68,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 850 31 44, [www.czerwonywieprz.pl](http://www.czerwonywieprz.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (36-66zł). 



## 44 Nowy Świat Street, Warsaw Traditional Polish Cuisine and Regional Products



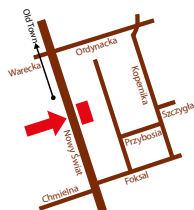
### Discover delicious Polish cuisine:

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# Restaurants

## DAWNE SMAKI





It's great to find a traditional Polish restaurant amongst the endless string of international eateries on Nowy Świat. Dawne Smaki thrives on old style Polish cooking, so get ready to sample a comprehensive range of home-grown specialities. The whole spectrum is pretty much covered, from the basics like herrings in oil, pig's trotters in aspic, potato cakes and pierogi, right up to some high class mains like loin of venison and hand chopped steak tartare. Find Kasztelan and Grimbergen beers on tap, plus live music every night and "theme" nights starting at 20:00. Private parties can rent a VIP space too. ▶ G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 49,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 465 83 20, [www.dawnesmaki.pl](http://www.dawnesmaki.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (19-95zł).    



## DOM POLSKI

Much ink has been spilt over the virtues of Dom Polski, some of it in these pages, but there is no getting away from the fact that this is a good restaurant. Found in a discreet villa on Warsaw's millionaires' row you can expect Rolls Royce service from the minute you walk in. The food is equally good, chosen from a menu which is mercifully short, with just a couple of starters and several main courses to choose from; how it should be, in other words. We went for the żurek followed by the potato pancakes with smoked salmon and red caviar and couldn't fault a thing. ▶ L-7, ul. Francuska 11, tel. (+48) 22 616 24 32, [www.restauracjadompolski.pl](http://www.restauracjadompolski.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (39-98zł).    






## DOM POLSKI BELWEDERSKA

This is the second location of one of Warsaw's most venerable, trusted and exclusive Polish restaurants. Achieving the seemingly impossible, they've succeeded in making their second outing even more elegant and inviting than the first. The pristine interiors correspond perfectly to the carefully manicured menu of Polish classics - emphasis on 'class'. The goose liver mousse with fruits and hot blackberry jam is a clear standout, as are the wild game mains with extra points for the sumptuous saddle of venison served with plum dumplings and cherry sauce. Simply extravagant. ▶ I-13, ul. Belwederska 18A, tel. (+48) 22 840 50 60, [www.restauracjadompolski.pl](http://www.restauracjadompolski.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (39-98zł).    






## ELIXIR BY DOM WÓDKI

When we first heard of Elixir we instinctively thought, surely someone has already thought of this? Unbelievably, nobody had - so, top marks to the masterminds behind this classy establishment. At their Vodka Atelier you can try over 250 vodkas from around Poland and the globe; the range goes from PRL era classics to Polish 'small batch' distillers, designer vodkas, flavoured vodkas and culminates in the staggeringly priced "Młody Ziemiak 2009" (480zł a pop!). The restaurant itself features

stunningly presented, contemporary takes on Polish classics with a "food pairing" system which recommends specific vodkas to complement the ingredients and flavours of each dish. An Absolut (pardon the pun!) top-spot and a truly unique venue on Warsaw's culinary map.

▶ F-5, ul. Wierzbowa 9/11,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 828 22 11, [www.domwodki.pl](http://www.domwodki.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (39-66zł).    

## FOLK GOSPODA

Far from promising on the outside, Folk Gospoda unravels on entry as a glorious slice of traditional Poland. It's inside a rugged interior of stout furnishings and ceramic pots you'll find boys and girls in peasant attire rushing around carrying plates of fortifying Polish food (think heaps of duck). Indeed, the Polish highlands meet the city inside Gospoda, and that's never more so than when the band strikes up to hoot and holler over the sound of busy diners. On weekends the restaurant thoughtfully employs a kids corner with child minders from 13:00 - 18:00 so you can properly focus on your food. They also offer 15% off all take away orders. ▶ D-7, ul. Waliców 13,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 890 16 05, [www.folkgospoda.pl](http://www.folkgospoda.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (33-79zł).    

## HALKA RESTAURACJA PO POLSKU

Named after one of Poland's best loved operas, Halka takes its name and culinary mission seriously. Having relocated to a new location, the design has been painstakingly replicated to mimic a 19th century country manor, a clear nod to Stanisław Moniuszko's popular script. The new dining room is a bit brighter and light but is still dripping with elegance and lordly touches. The superb menu is still upmarket Polish food at its best. And despite what the well-done interior might suggest, they even have a children's corner. ▶ H-13, ul. Puławska 43,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 509 59 33 05, [www.restauracjahalka.pl](http://www.restauracjahalka.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (22-55zł).    

## KUCHNIA WARSZAWSKA

Located on the first floor of the Logos Hotel, a cold war period oddity filled with the character of that era, Kuchnia Warszawska is a brilliantly hidden away gem serving classics of Warsaw cuisine. The restaurant interior has been tastefully refitted and the pale colour scheme makes it all wonderfully airy and fresh. Considering the extremely reasonable prices, the elegant, friendly and professional staff, excellent local dishes and attention to detail (the steak tartar is minced fresh table side by one of their Chefs), these guys are seriously punching above their weight. For an added surprise, ask to see the private hire room - a full on and original, late 1960's PRL meeting room with amazing views of the Vistula Riverbank. ▶ I-6, Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 31/33,  Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 730 77 89 22, [www.kuchnia-warszawska.pl](http://www.kuchnia-warszawska.pl). Open 06:30 - 22:00. Lunch is served Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00 for 20zł. (16-45zł).      



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## LITERATKA

Located in the shadow of Zygmunt's column on the Warsaw's poshest street, Literatka is a traditional Polish restaurant with a cosy feel and an impressive range of Polski and international dishes. Pierogi, pork and duck all make an appearance as well as a more than acceptable sirloin steak. It's not bad at all and a suitable way to finish a day ploughing the tourist trail in the adjacent old town, and the Mon-Fri lunch special (12:00-17:00 soup and a main for 19zł) is a deal. ► F-4, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 87/89 (second entrance from ul. Senatorska 3),  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 827 30 54, [www.literatka.com.pl](http://www.literatka.com.pl). Open 10:00 - 24:00. (30-70zł). 

## MAŁA POLANA SMAKÓW

Sometimes we wonder how many 'celebrity' chefs Poland actually has. Anyhow, this time it's the turn of Andrzej Polan, presenter of popular culinary TV show 'Polska ze smakiem' (Poland with taste). His motto is clear cut; "Simple recipes, the finest ingredients and fantastic flavour. Need you expect more from a kitchen?". The restaurant itself is a small, intimate and contemporarily rustic affair overlooking the Morskie Oko Park and the seasonal menus, with Mr. Polan's meticulous attention to detail and presentation, are a master class in the sympathetic fine-tuning of traditional Polish dishes, ingredients and flavours. ► I-14, ul. Belwederska 13,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 400 80 48, [www.polanasmakow.pl](http://www.polanasmakow.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (41-60zł). 

## MERLINIEGO 5

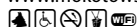
As a general rule of thumb most restaurants using their address as a name tend to be pretty special and Merliniego 5 is a damn good example of that rule. Well known for their steaks and seafoods the menu also includes some excellent Polish highlights like wild boar and Mazurian duck. Steaks include black Angus rib eye (imported from Ottomanelli & sons of New York) and the staggeringly pricey +9 Wagyu Kobe. The two level interior is rich in deep colours, raw brickwork and exotic woods. Marvel at the vast display of wines as you enter via the bar area. Michelin recommended in both 2013 and 2014, enough said! ► H-16, ul. Merliniego 5,  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 22 646 08 10, [www.merliniego5.pl](http://www.merliniego5.pl). Open 11:30 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (39-89zł). 

## MOKOTOWSKA 69

Every Varsovian is familiar with the funny little round, folly of a building situated at the Plac Trzech Krzyży end of ul. Mokotowska. Part space station, part rustic farm building it was home to the German restaurant, Adler, for as long as anyone can remember. Times change though and under the new ownership of, Merliniego 5's steak kings, Andrzej Rudnicki-Sipayłło and Bartek Czerwiński, it has reopened as an elegant little restaurant serving up an inspired menu of traditionally influenced Polish cuisine. The seasonal menu does not shy away from some more unusual Polish offerings like breaded calf's brain, tench (a river fish rarely



seen on menu's) or Mazurian crayfish. The less adventurous are also well catered for and, with Andrzej and Bartek at the controls, their world class steaks and the brilliantly selected wine list are never far from your thoughts. ► H-9, ul. Mokotowska 69, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 628 73 84, [www.mokotowska69.pl](http://www.mokotowska69.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (19-89zł).



## RESTAURACJA RÓŻANA

A two floor pre-war villa full of chichi touches, flowers and crockery. Very pretty, but you'll soon learn they attract return custom on account of the cooking, not the interiors. The setting might look high end but the prices are certainly not, and you'll find Różana recognized across the city as one of the best dinner deals around. The saddle of deer with golden gnocchi and homemade pickles is divine. Plenty claim to open till the last customer but only these guys are the real deal – if there's people dining then the kitchen will stay open, and that doesn't matter if it's midnight or daybreak. Give a quick call ahead to check. ► H-13, ul. Chocimska 7, **M** Pole Mokotowskie, tel. (+48) 22 848 12 25, [www.restauracjarozana.com.pl](http://www.restauracjarozana.com.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00. (30-70zł).

## RESTAURACJA SŁOIK

'Słoi' is the Polish word for 'jar' and it's also a term used to describe any resident of Warsaw not born in the city. This restaurant and cocktail bar has dumped the common clapped-out log cabin look and bravely created a modern, colourful, neon-lit environment. The Polish standards on the menu have also been given a bit of a contemporary overhaul without losing any sense of tradition and the unique Polish-inspired cocktails are wickedly funky. Jars are everywhere, including a huge number of back-lit jars containing anything that can be sealed and preserved. Crikey, even the front door was ajar! ► F-8, ul. Złota 11 (entrance from Pasaż Wiecha), **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 600 39 66 88, [www.restauracjasloik.pl](http://www.restauracjasloik.pl). Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri 09:00 - 24:00, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (20-40zł).

## SENSES

In March 2016 Senses became the second restaurant in Poland to receive a Michelin star. This is a testament to the truly innovative work Head chef Andrea Camasta has done developing his tasting menus steeped in the culinary traditions and produce of Poland. His dynamic, uncompromising and experimental approach in achieving his vision have taken Polish cuisine to unprecedented levels. Having done away with a la carte menus all together, Senses now offer three different tasting menus. Currently offering 6 course (380zł) and 8 (550zł) course options are available (courses and prices are subject to change). The interior masterfully blends the feeling of the surrounding architecture and the attention to detail is mind-boggling. Prepare to have your senses blown away. ► E-5, ul. Bielańska 12, **M** Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 331 96 97, [www.sensesrestaurant.pl](http://www.sensesrestaurant.pl). Open 18:00 - 21:30. Closed Sun.



# folk gospoda

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## SPECJALNY REGIONALNE

This is a great restaurant that has recently undergone a sizable expansion and now even hosts pierogie workshops! They serve up meat and potatoes in all their varying Polish forms, but in small enough portions to not come away in pain. Think Polish tapas – it's a great place to go and sample the full range of Polish sausage meat and ham, especially when the prices are so small. As an extra bonus, if you really like your dish you can order some more from the deli to take home for later (they even rent an apartment upstairs now if home is too far). Furthermore, the owner is something of a mead and vodka fanatic with lots of choice tinctures there for the tasting or take away-ing. On Monday's they even organise Polish alcohol tastings for 100zł per person from 16:00-18:00 (you need to book in advance) and look out for occasional live folk music concerts. Also at ul. Gagarina 4 (Mokotów), ul. Dąbrowskiego 3 (Mokotów), ul. Solec 56 (deli & shop only), ul. Płochocińska 195 (Białoleka), ul. Ostrobramska 75C (Atrium Promenada, Praga Południe) and a deli and shop at ul. Felińskiego 52 (Żoliborz). ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 44, tel. (+48) 662 25 42 15, [www.specjalnyregionalne.pl](http://www.specjalnyregionalne.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:30, Fri, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. (27-75zł).

## STARA KAMIENICA

Located in a secessionist-era townhouse in the city centre, at first glance, Stara Kamienica comes across as a 1920's furnished and dark wood detailed traditional restaurant. Chandeliers, vases of fresh flowers, chintzy curtains, art deco mirrors and subdued lighting give the venue a quiet, old-world charm but it's also more than that; changing art exhibitions, daily live music starting at 19:00 and an interesting menu of traditional Polish and European classic dishes with a modern twist. Stop in during the day to try their lunch menu Mon-Fri 12:00 - 16:00 (19,50 zł). ► G-8, ul. Widok 8, Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 690 67 67, [www.stara-kamienica.com.pl](http://www.stara-kamienica.com.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (30-79zł).

## THE ONE

Forgetting the fact that we find the name inexplicably irritating, The One hits the bullseye in every other department. Perfectly situated on trendy ul. Francuska, a well thought out garden space - including an outdoor open kitchen area towards the back and an interior which is fresh and sophisticated. Every detail has been carefully considered. The seasonally changing menu may have an international slant yet at its heart it is heavily influenced by Polish cuisine. Expect the freshest local and regional produce throughout the colourful menu. It's also a top spot to drop in for a cocktail (with occasional live music) and one of our favourites for a relaxing Sunday breakfast. ► L-7, ul. Francuska 3, tel. (+48) 22 616 35 97, [www.theonefrancuska3.pl](http://www.theonefrancuska3.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (28-64zł).

## TRZECIA WAZA

Curious restaurant which manages to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity in a subliminal manner. The high ceilings, arches and grand entrance are all reminiscent of a glamorous pre-war Warsaw but the pure white walls and aesthetically simple white tables and chairs

are unobtrusive and modern. Large scale black and white photos of 1930's Warsaw are also presented in a modern way – hung in adjoining sections. The menu sticks to Polish tradition, but wait, there's also a separate and more contemporary looking page listing burgers! Their weekday lunch specials (12:00 - 16:00) offer 3 sets to choose from and reasonably price 14.95-19.95zł and breakfast is only 1zł when you order a drink. The friendly and funny staff also looked like a renegade hip-hop crew. Brilliant post-modern marketing or accidental surrealism, we really couldn't decide.

► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 64, **M** Nowy Świat - Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 792 90 94 18, [www.trzeciawaza.pl](http://www.trzeciawaza.pl). pl. Open 09:00 - 22:00. (16-40zł).

## U BARSSA

The Old Town is packed with standard places to eat, but has traditionally been something of a desert when it comes to great places to eat. Times are a-changing. As you walk into the elegant dining room you will discover a world of luxury, craft and privilege. The salad with goat cheese and the signature duck à la Barssa baked with apples, cranberries and plum sauce accompanied by beet konfiture, caramelised apples and orange sauce are just a few of the treats you can expect, and we have yet to mention the wine list! They also have a huge summer garden and they offer live music on the weekends (occasionally midweek) so call ahead before you wine & dine to reserve your space in this charming place. ► F-4, Rynek Starego Miasta 14, **M** Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 635 24 76, [www.ubarssa.pl](http://www.ubarssa.pl). Open 10:00 - 24:00. (35-90zł).

## U FUKIERA

The most famous restaurant in town with a guestbook that speaks for itself; Naomi Campbell, Henry Kissinger and Sarah Ferguson are a few of the names who've taken a seat here. The interior is a work of art, crowded with paintings and antiques, it's hard not to feel a part of history when dining here. The food is the perfect indulgence with perfectly presented game dishes. Your bill is a different matter, and may present a double Dutch situation. ► F-4, Rynek Starego Miasta 27, **M** Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 831 10 13, [www.ufukiera.pl](http://www.ufukiera.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (41-99zł).

## VARSO VIE

We always felt that with its monumentally grand communist era buildings, Plac Konstytucji warranted an equally grand eatery. Don't get us wrong, the square has plenty places to enjoy a good feed, but Varso Vie has definitely managed to raise the standard in the area. A brilliantly conceived menu of modernly tweaked Polish dishes, a cool and sophisticated ambience and walls adorned with contemporary art. The professionalism of the whole operation is a lesson in how to really run a restaurant. Even the open kitchen is a joy to view, with the kitchen staff looking unfazed and working away with a zen like work ethic. We defy you not to try the venison with pearl barley, roasted carrots and caramelised plum. ► G-10, Pl. Konstytucji 2, **M** Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 622 24 72, [www.varso-vie.pl](http://www.varso-vie.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 23:00, Sun 14:00 - 21:00. (31-59zł).



"Restaurant U Barssa" is a romantic and historic setting on the Old Town Square serving traditional Polish cuisine inspired by old recipes. The sound of the piano and glow of the candlelight, surrounded by centuries-old wall paintings, make every rendezvous more pleasant.



"U BARSSA" RESTAURANT  
Rynek Starego Miasta 12/14, Warsaw  
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E-mail: [biuro@ubarssa.pl](mailto:biuro@ubarssa.pl)  
[ubarssa.pl](http://ubarssa.pl)



# Restaurants

## WARSZAWA WSCHODNIA

Not content with running a rather large number of restaurants in the city centre, the Gessler clan set their sights on the never-quite-rejuvenated area of post-industrial Praga with this popular venture in the trendy Soho Factory complex. One of the two main brick walled rooms is vast, the smaller room has a central kitchen area which diners sit around and watch the frantic goings-on of the chefs at work (there is also a third room available plus a VIP room by reservation only). Ultimately, this 'island' eating concept is rather irritating, noisy and a tad 'aromatic' in our opinion. Mind you, none of that stops the young, rich and beautiful from piling in here. The kitchen, under the command of Robert Kondziela, presents a modern take on Polish classics and contemporary French cuisine, and serves it 'round the clock. ► ul. Mińska 25 (Praga Południe), **M Stadion Narodowy**, tel. (+48) 22 870 29 18, [www.gessler.sohofactory.pl](http://www.gessler.sohofactory.pl). Open 24hrs. (56-80zł).

## ZAPIECZEK

Packed through all hours this pierogi kitchen assumes the 'Grandmother's country cottage' look, with pots and pans hanging from every shelf, and lots of hard timber touches. Much talked about, their deliciously light dough pockets come with all the fillings you can imagine. If you don't fancy a sit down then check their street-level take away window for lunch-on-the-run. Also at Al. Jerozolimskie 28 (G-8), ul. Freta 18 (F-3), ul. Wańkowicza 1 (Kabaty), ul. Freta 1 (F-3), ul. Świętojańska 13 (F-4) ul. Krakowski Przedmieście 55 (G-5). ► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 64, **M Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**, tel. (+48) 22 692 41 35, [www.zapiecek.eu](http://www.zapiecek.eu). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00. (19-36zł).

## SEAFOOD

### OSTERIA

Some of the best seafood in Warsaw, with a menu featuring fresh oysters, langoustines and some very good octopus. The modern interior includes hardwood and porthole finishes, as well as aquariums from which African fish look on in alarm as their colleagues meet a sticky end in the open kitchen. ► F-10, ul. Koszykowa 54 (entrance from ul. Poznańska), **M Politechnika**, tel. (+48) 601 24 34 66, [www.osteria.pl](http://www.osteria.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 13:00 - 21:00. (49-122zł).

## SOUTH AMERICAN

### CEVICHE BAR

It usually takes a good few months for Warsaw to catch up with current international food fads but this one has been worth the wait. The new baby of Argentinian super-chef Martin Gimenez Castro, presents a short list of ceviche dishes (seasoned raw fish, cured in citrus juices popular around the coastal regions of South America). For a deep-sea thrill of a lifetime, order the Langostinos

- shrimp combined with maracuja and coconut milk. The menu also includes soups, salads, empanadas and a brilliant list of South American classic and signature cocktails. The smartly casual interior is highlighted with a 1950's style mural of Aztec inspired images, a buzzing open kitchen and a mirror wall which makes this smallish bar look massive. ► E-7, ul. Twarda 2/4, **M Rondo ONZ**, tel. (+48) 22 304 94 02, [www.cevichebar.pl](http://www.cevichebar.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. (22-60zł).

## SPANISH

### OLE TAPAS STEAK RESTAURANT

Warsaw's hankering for a fine steak shows no sign of abating with the highly respected Ole doubling in size by adding a new and more elegant dining room to the restaurant. Choose between the bistro like original space with its whirlwind of flamenco and bullfighting imagery or step through into the quiet, elegant and more formal new space featuring a wall of wines and prints of how your steak looked while its heart was still beating. No need to mess with a winning combination so the menu remains staunchly the same featuring delicious steaks from aged Spanish beef. ► G-8, ul. Bracka 2, **M Centrum**, tel. (+48) 519 87 57 67, [www.ole-restaurant.pl](http://www.ole-restaurant.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (60-200zł).

### SOLY SOMBRA

Sol y Sombra has a slightly kitschy décor balanced by consistently delicious cuisine, which is authentically Spanish to the core. The lunch special lands you soup and a main, and we can't say enough for the gazpacho when it's in season. The paella requires a bit of a wait but it's well worth it, and the tenderloin with goat cheese is also highly recommended. As the third tapas bar to call this address home we're thinking this one is a keeper. ► E-6, ul. Grzybowska 2 lok.16, **M Świętokrzyska**, tel. (+48) 22 404 70 11, [www.solysombra.pl](http://www.solysombra.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Mon, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. (29-49zł).

### TAPAS GASTROBAR

There can be no better recommendation for this smart, yet simply designed tapas bar than the fact that they have been known to reduce some of their Spanish customers to tears as their minds hurtle back to the real tastes of home. The bar is the brainchild of the team behind the superb Casa Pablo, so you know to expect great things. The authentic and traditional range of around 30 tapas dishes are representative of the many regions of Spain and the kitchen is run by a chef from Saragossa whose passion for the art could well be unsurpassed in the city. Organising a private event (bdays, business meeting, anniversaries etc.)? You can rent the whole place out if need be. Quite brilliant! ► C-7, ul. Grzybowska 63 (entrance from ul. Wronia), **M Rondo Daszyńskiego**, tel. (+48) 22 251 13 10, [www.tapasgastrobar.pl](http://www.tapasgastrobar.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (12-45zł).





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### where to find us:

#### OLD TOWN:

- ▶ ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 55  
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22/ 635 61 09
- ▶ ul. Freta 1  
22/ 831 61 90
- ▶ ul. Freta 18  
22/ 635 79 59







#### CITY:

- ▶ ul. Nowy Świat 64  
22/ 692 41 35
- ▶ Al. Jerozolimskie 28  
22/ 826 74 84
- ▶ KABATY:  
ul. Wańkowicza 1  
22/ 644 50 15




## STEAK

The steakhouse has enjoyed prime (get it?) placement on Warsaw's dining scene of late, and talk of the best cuts, grass-fed beef and who has the juiciest New York strip can be hashed out at this list of Warsaw's steak-centric restaurants.

### BEEF N' PEPPER


Hidden away in a small alleyway alongside the famous Roma Theatre, the exterior may well look like you're about to enter a 1970's shopping mall diner outside Lubbock TX, but inside it's a smart, urban steakhouse and bar. All the beefy bits come from top grade Polish cattle (28 days dry cured) - the quality is excellent and the fact that they use the finest local meat means that prices are surprisingly reasonable. A few seafood options and Louisiana Chicken Wings struggle for a look-in as beef rules in this kingdom. In addition to a fine wine list, the slick bar also has a brilliant selection of whiskies and bourbons. ▶ F-9, ul. Nowogrodzka 47A,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 785 02 50 25, [www.beefandpepper.pl](http://www.beefandpepper.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (22-90zł).     

### BUTCHERY & WINE

A wonderful addition to the Warsaw dining scene winning points for originality and simplicity. This bright, modern, relaxed venue has an open kitchen and enough wine on display to float a battleship. The menu features a range of real steaks prepared exactly to order and served on wooden boards with additional sauce and side options. While it doesn't have to be steak (the rest of the menu also looked mouth-watering) we can't imagine ever daring to order anything else. Highly recommended! ▶ G-8, ul. Żurawia 22/20,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 502 31 18, [www.butcheryandwine.pl](http://www.butcheryandwine.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (29-120zł).  

### NEW

#### ED RED






Having already built up a fine reputation with their first restaurant in Kraków, this meat obsessed emporium has plunged into the deep end and opened a new restaurant in the capital. Situated in the upstairs level of our favourite old market hall of Hala Mirowska (1899-1901), Ed Red's menu specialises in meat dishes - from the finest cuts, all the way down to the bowels of our farmyard friends; including offal dishes and mountain oysters (that's balls to you and me!). Salivate at their unique dry aged steaks from locally raised cattle and marvel at their brilliantly selected wine list which comes courtesy of Master Sommelier Adam Pawlowski. ▶ D-6, Hala Mirowska 1,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 530 05 10 55, [www.edred.pl](http://www.edred.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00.

## TEX-MEX

### DOS TACOS

The word on the street is that the Mexican revolution is coming to kick some US burger butt in Warsaw, so it was obviously the perfect time for Dos Tacos to move from their previous, and somewhat glum, location in a corporate business/retail complex and take the centre of town by storm. The traditional cantina-like interior is a stylish affair which manages to avoid the tacky tacos look and instead the atmosphere manages to feel casual and fun. Tacos, burritos, enchiladas and quesadillas galore, plus a whole host of more obscure and authentic Mexican regional dishes courtesy of kitchen queen Isabela Balderas. Killer Margaritas! ▶ F-7, ul. Jasna 22,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 243 46 18, [www.dostacos.pl](http://www.dostacos.pl). Open 12:00 - 21:30, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. (21-55zł).     

### LA SIRENA: THE MEXICAN FOOD CARTEL

Innovative concept, for Warsaw at least! Find the dodgiest looking building on ul. Piękna (ironically, it means Beautiful Street), subhead it a 'Cartel' for maximum effect, design a fantastic Posada, woodcut style 'Day of the Dead' take on Warsaw's mermaid coat of arms symbol (which looks far better in its printed version, rather than the neon on the exterior wall), devise a splendid and exotic Mexican menu plus a brilliant drinks/cocktail list and watch the customers flood into this brilliant mini-establishment. Far more like 'Cheers' than 'The Titty Twister' from Robert Rodriguez' Mexican vampire flick 'From Dusk till Dawn'. Te quiero La Sirena! ▶ G-10, ul. Piękna 54, tel. (+48) 690 08 50 54. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (15-59zł).     

## THAI

### SILK & SPICY

No expense has been spared on the lush, perfectly designed interior and it's nice to see a little ray of sunshine along the less salubrious end of ul. Żurawia. Sushi and Thai battle it out on the menu, and since we would rather go for Sushi in a small clinically white sushi bar, Thai wins the day! A good tester for any Warsaw Thai venture is Tom Kha Kai; weighing in at a rather hefty 21zł for a bowl of soup, we were relieved that this one was pretty tasty despite suffering from the rather common lack of 'chilli kick'. Unfortunately the average Polish palate still dreads the fiery fruit, and restaurants compensate accordingly. Be aware of the obsession with weekend reservations, even when the place is half empty. ▶ G-8, ul. Żurawia 16/20,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 70 12, [www.silkandspicy.pl](http://www.silkandspicy.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (25-70zł).     

### THAI ME UP

Located in a beautiful old townhouse on the ever popular ul. Foksal, the site itself seems destined to forever being a haven of Thai dining. Its previous incarnation, Papaya, was a rather stiff and upmarket affair and we love the transformation into a casual, simple and attractive eatery. None of the

usual Buddhas and bamboo here, it's a modern, clean space with lots of natural wood, blackboards and quirky fittings, we love the brilliant white monkey lights. Chef Sunchai's comprehensive menu hits all the right authenticity notes and check out his own daily recommendations blackboard. The tucked away, rounded wok station area is also a great addition for those who enjoy watching the prep n' sizzle of what they're about to consume. ► G-7, ul. Foksal 16, **[M]**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 11 99, [www.thaimeup.pl](http://www.thaimeup.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (25-50zł).

## THAISTY

As soon as you walk in the bustling crowds will greet you, as will a wall of savoury sweet and spicy aromas wafting from the open kitchen. Settle into a cosy booth, or if you're flying solo grab a stool at the communal table in the middle. After pouring over the atypical menu we decided to go with a few recommendations (marked with arrows) from Thai head chef Chanunkan Duangkumma. The Peking bun was an absolute revelation as the delicate duck meat just melted in our mouths. We followed with the crispy oyster mushroom salad which was perhaps the most interesting textured and flavoured "Thai" dish we've ever tried. Thaisty is not only the real deal, it's really a great deal! ► E-5, Pl. Bankowy 4, **[M]**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 730 00 00 24, [www.thaisty.pl](http://www.thaisty.pl). Open 11:00 - 22:30, Mon 16:00 - 22:30. (29-59zł).

## THAI THAI

Run by the Godfather of Warsaw's Thai cuisine, Surachart Urajaroen, this restaurant is 100% the real deal. No messing around with fusion concepts or little Polish additions. The five strong Thai kitchen team stick firmly to tradition and the results are spectacular. Based in the National Theatre building itself, the exterior of hefty, grey stonework gives you no inkling of the opulent interior which awaits you. Black walls decorated with Thai designs and gold curved ceilings create a very calming and relaxing environment. The well laid out seating areas also offer you the option of dining in a more private space, great for business meetings or an intimate dinner date. ► F-5, Pl. Teatralny 3, **[M]**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 601 81 82 83, [www.thaithai.pl](http://www.thaithai.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00. (44-120zł).

## WHY THAI FOOD & WINE

Why Thai, why not? This fresh, cool and comfortable modern restaurant refuses to bow down to the standard 'silk road' school of Asian interior design. An absolute insistence on using fresh ingredients, unpolluted by MSG or other flavour enhancing poisons, guarantees the dishes have a light and natural taste. The well-conceived menu is neither overly long nor cryptically complicated. We rate the beef with chili and sweet thai basil and their classic Pad Thai is a sure-fire winner. If you're particularly nosy and need to know what the Thai cooks are up to try to be seated in the smaller area of the restaurant with its glass fronted view into the kitchen. ► H-9, ul. Wiejska 13, **[M]**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 625 76 98, [www.whythai.pl](http://www.whythai.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Mon, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. (18-50zł).

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## Restaurants

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### DECODING THE MENU

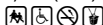
Since one of the main things you're likely to be doing while in town is eating, here are a few words you're likely to encounter on any menu in town. *Smacznego!* (Enjoy your meal!)

śniadanie	breakfast
zupa	soup
przystawki	appetisers
dania główne	main dishes
dodatki	side dishes
ziemniaki	potatoes
kapusta	cabbage
ser	cheese
chleb	bread
warzywa	vegetables
owoce	fruit
mięso	meat
kurczak	chicken
wieprzowina	pork
wołowina	beef
ryba	fish
deser	dessert
ciasto	cake
lody	ice cream
napoje	drinks
kawa	coffee
piwo	beer

### TURKISH

#### EFES

Head to the suburb of the rich and powerful to track down Poland's premier kebab. Either join the queue at the takeaway window, or practise patience inside as you wait for a table to be vacated; there is no such thing as quiet hour here, which speaks volumes for the quality you can expect. This is the Warsaw kebab experience reinvented. Also at Al. Niepodległości 80, (G-15). ▶ L-8, ul. Francuska 1, tel. (+48) 22 616 25 80. Open 11:00 - 21:00. (10-22zł).



### UKRAINIAN

#### KAMANDA LWOWSKA

Here's a restaurant that gets back to basics, offering up a cavalcade of dishes that have been otherwise deleted from modern Warsaw. Featuring peasant pictures and brick ceilings this isn't the experiment in vanity you expect of ul. Foksal, choosing instead to hark to the times when Ukrainian Lviv was actually Polish Lwów. The emphasis is firmly on the good old days – before moustached dictators started dictating Poland's borders – and the design is a pleasing jumble of craftwork and clutter. The menu, too, has been painstakingly perfected, and includes such masterstrokes as tatar and a meringue cake with raspberry mousse. ▶ H-7, ul. Foksal 10, M Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 828 10 31, www.kamandalwowska.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00. (39-99zł).



### VEGETARIAN

#### LOKAL VEGAN BISTRO

This communally run "local" restaurant have achieved the impossible: they serve up hot and hearty plates of VEGAN Polish dishes that are often more delicious than their pork-heavy counterparts. What is more, they change their entire menu every two weeks so unless you check out their FB page you won't know exactly what to fide. Alongside vegan 'cutlets', cabbage concoctions and beet soups, you'll also find plenty of more exotic dishes of far Eastern, Indian and Italian origin plus a few surprises. Huge portions, fresh ingredients, cheap prices (they always have one dish for just 10zł), a buzzing friendly atmosphere filled with locals plus their huge urban terrace - all add up to one of the best spots for a healthy lunch or dinner in the city centre. ▶ G-9, ul. Krucza 23/31, M Centrum, tel. (+48) 517 61 51 22, www.spoldzielniamargines.pl. Open 12:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. (10-25zł).











#### RESTAURACJA AMBASADA

Situated in the glamorous splendour of the famous Zamojski Palace, Ambasada is a vegetarian restaurant with a difference. It's a beautifully designed and relaxing white space where every aspect seems to have been carefully considered. The difference in the kitchen is also quite apparent with its emphasis on 'raw food' dishes. To some, the 'raw food' aspect may sound like health food fads gone



haywire but convince yourself otherwise by trying fresh and beautifully presented options like lasagna raw or the almond and carrot burger. If the lush surroundings of the palace rock your boat, then why not enquire about renting one of their stunning apartments for your stay in the city.

► H-7, ul. Foksal 1,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 826 52 04, [www.restaurantambasada.com](http://www.restaurantambasada.com). Open 11:00 - 22:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00. (25-50zł).       

## VEG DELI








Situated on a tranquil tree-lined residential street in the Powiśle area of the city, Veg Deli has certainly managed to up the ante regarding vegetarian restaurants in Warsaw. The freshly prepared vegetarian, vegan and gluten free dishes are richly coloured, fragrant and look, smell and taste amazing. Even seasoned carnivores such as us were knocked out by the food and natural drinks on offer. The restaurant itself is best summed up as the opposite of Dr. Who's Tardis - it looks huge from the outside, a chunky old townhouse with tall and stylish old windows, but on the inside it's a pretty small and simple split level affair. ► H-6, ul. Radna 14,  Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 733 66 98 74. Open 12:00 - 20:30, Sun 12:00 - 19:30. (20-30zł).      

## VEGE BISTRO

This bright bistro serves up hearty and healthy vegan lunches and dinners. They draw inspiration from Eastern and Western cuisines and unlike many other vegan joints, the flavours are bursting off the plate. Daily lunch specials plus a stocked set menu of soups, salads, curries, gulasz, cutlets, falafel and of course burgers! Grab a smoothy, juice, coffee or craft beer to wash it down and your all set for the rest of the day. ► G-7, ul. Mikołaja Kopernika 25,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 516 02 79 06, [www.vegebistro.pl](http://www.vegebistro.pl). Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. (18-22zł).      

## VIETNAMESE

### VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT FOUR SEASONS

Four Seasons is a well designed and attractive restaurant space featuring coloured woods and lime green paintwork highlighted by the soft glow of green neon and the tables are professionally laid out. The overall effect looks pretty impressive, so one would expect the pan-asian cuisine compete with the surroundings. Our dishes were reasonable, but they do seem to err on the side of caution when it comes to seasonings and spices. A good choice for a quick lunch, offering a choice of four different daily options. ► G-9, ul. Hoża 27A,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 400 27 32, [www.hoza4seasons.pl](http://www.hoza4seasons.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00. (17-60zł).      



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tel.: 0048 61 818 29 11  
mail: [poznan@whythai.pl](mailto:poznan@whythai.pl)

[WWW.WHYTHAI.PL](http://WWW.WHYTHAI.PL)



*Zdrowa Konkurencja is way ahead of the competition with their healthy breakfasts and killer coffees!*

### BLIKLE CAFÉ

A part of Warsaw folklore. This is where Charles De Gaulle used to come for his doughnuts back in his Warsaw days, and Blikle still sells a variety of desserts and cakes that are famous in their own right. A classy, august venue, with a menu that includes a range of breakfasts, lunches, ice creams and a dessert selection that will have you in heaven.

► G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 35, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 669 60 97 06, [www.blikle.pl](http://www.blikle.pl). Open 09:00 - 22:00. The bakery is only open until 20:00. ☺ ♻️

### BYĆ MOŻE...

This sophisticated yet cool cafe has a lot to offer and hasn't yet been overrun by the encroaching hipster crowds. Their onsite bakery churns out all kinds of lovely loaves of rustic bread - freshly sliced and paired with one of their all-day breakfasts (starting from 15zł), scrumptious sandwiches or sultry salads. Although their other savoury pastas and mains (wild mushroom risotto!) tempted us, we couldn't resist the prospect of a mid-afternoon eggs benedict and cappuccino to really kick the day into overdrive. Their impressive wine and drink selection not to mention fresh mussels and lunch specials make it hard to stay away from this exceptional cafe. ► H-12, ul. Bagatela 14, **M** Politechnika, tel. (+48) 519 00 00 14. Open 07:00 - 23:00. ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️

Read more reviews online:  
[warsaw.inyourpocket.com](http://warsaw.inyourpocket.com)

### CAFE BRISTOL

If you can't afford to stay in Warsaw's sumptuous Hotel Bristol, that certainly doesn't preclude you from enjoying their wonderful ground-floor cafe overlooking a park in the centre of the city. Located just minutes from the Old Town, this historic meeting place (opened in 1901) is a great place to have breakfast (served all day), a quick lunch, light meal, or coffee and cake served in the tradition of the finest pre-war Viennese coffeehouses. The classic interiors are the perfect place to read the paper and slow time down until it's merely a trivality. ► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 551 18 28, [www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl](http://www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl). Open 08:00 - 20:00. ☺ ♻️ ♻️

### CAFE PRÓŻNA

Making a stir with Warsaw's intellectuals is Cafe Prózna, a cracking cafe set inside an historic building that is slowly being renovated. You'll be lucky to find a seat inside this narrow venue, even more so if there's a lecture or reading going on. Decorated with pre-war photographs, Prózna comes with a pile of well-thumbed history books in the entrance, tiny tea candles and a basement level to soak up any overflow of customers. The only disappointment here are the smoothies; nowhere near as good as the venue deserves. ► E-7, ul. Prózna 12, **M** Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 620 32 57. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. ♻️ ☺ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️

## CROQUE MADAME

A mighty fine French style cafe, bakery and cake shop which neatly manages to walk the difficult line of being neither too trendy nor too old fashioned and therefore attracts a nice mix of customers. The beautiful interior is all delicate whites and pale greys and the attention to detail in everything is immediately noticeable. Enjoy a morning breakfast basket (Polish or French style), freshly made sandwiches, light and colourful salads and marvel at the daily selection of cakes and sweets. Whatever you order, it all comes simply, yet perfectly presented, and served by waiters and waitresses who actually look happy to be working here and that's always a winner in our book! ▶ **G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 41, M Nowy Świat-Universytet, tel. (+48) 530 75 72 00. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 22:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## CUPCAKE CORNER BAKERY

Already a big hit in Kraków, this American-Polish operation has set their sights on the capital and have hit the ground running. In less than four months they've already managed to open two cafes – the first one on Plac Konstytucji and a brand new sparkling location on ul. Chmielna 21. The rules are pretty simple; each location is situated on or near a corner and filled with freshly baked, American style cupcakes and bagels! They also do brilliant homemade artisanal ice creams (caramelised bacon!) and freshly roasted, organic, fair trade coffees. Everything is baked on the day it hits the cafes using the most natural ingredients (apart from the OREO's perhaps?). Innovative, limited run cupcakes (pumpkin!) and even gluten free options means they have a sweet lil' something for absolutely everyone (also available for order on their website). Also at ul. Chmielna 21 (G-8); open daily 08:00 - 23:00. ▶ **G-10, Pl. Konstytucji 2, M Politechnika, tel. (+48) 732 96 13 75, www.cupcakecorner.pl. Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## DUNKIN' DONUTS

It's a rare occasion that this writer will gush about a new American fast food enterprise opening its doors in Poland, but Dunkin' Donuts is an exception. If you aren't familiar with the Boston-based donut chain then you are in for a treat, albeit an unhealthy one. Their flagship products are small round rings of fried dough that are glazed, sprinkled, spackled and frosted in all flavours and colours. You'll also find a huge selection of bagel sandwiches which are great for a hearty breakfast on the run. The holy grail however has to be the DD coffee. While it can't compare to any European coffee - it is delicious, comes in huge cups and simple flavours and is heavily iced in Summer. ▶ **F-7, ul. Świętokrzyska 16, M Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 533 31 28 63, www.dunkindonutspoland.com. Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sun 08:00 - 22:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## MONIQUE BAKERY & WINE

This French style cafe really is underselling itself by saying Bakery and Wine. Ok, they do make some great rustic breads, fine cakes/pastries and have a small selection of nice wines, but they also do great salads, low-fat burgers, tartines, filled pancakes, ice creams, freshly squeezed fruit

cocktails and are open from 9am for a variety of breakfasts. The ideal corner location allows them to open up two sides of the exterior. The staff were attentive, professional and looked great in their crisp white shirts and blouses. A little Parisian style diamond on Krucza. ▶ **G-8, ul. Krucza 41/43, M Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 39 74, www.moniquebakery.pl. Open 09:00 - 21:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## RELAX CAFE BAR

Relax has long been one of our favourite escapes in the city centre for fine coffee (including aeropress, drip and Chemex) and great homemade cakes. Find it in part of the former Relax Cinema building, just behind the main drag of big stores on ul. Marszałkowska. Check out the communist era cinema neon sign on the end of the building which is located around 100m from the café itself. The lovely staff spend most of their time enthusiastically pointing out hard to find destinations to lost looking tourists on maps of Warsaw. Recently, they have added a range of 25 regional bottled beers to the menu and be sure to sample the 'Cider Inn'. They now host rotating photography exhibitions and weekly traveller meet ups. ▶ **F-7, ul. Złota 8A (Pasaż Wiecha), M Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 827 35 65, www.relaxcafe.pl. Open 08:00 - 23:00, Fri 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 10:30 - 24:00, Sun 10:30 - 22:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## ZDROWA KONKURENCJA

Sometimes, something as simple as painting the outside of your cafe bright red makes a place stand out. Think about that as you walk past all the subdued/dull shop fronts in Warsaw. The emphasis is on fresh, simple and healthy; rustic breads, sandwiches, bagels, salads, cakes, smoothies, breakfasts and a daily lunch menu at a fixed price of 20zł. We also got very excited about the pastrami sandwiches (still quite a rarity in town). The constant flow of customers, on a Sunday afternoon, buying bread to take home and having a friendly chat with the girl at the counter says a lot about what a nice place Zdrowa Konkurencja is. Try to check out the toilet with its artificial climbing ivy and piped in birdsong recordings! ▶ **E-5, Pl. Bankowy 4, M Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 572 32 22 22, www.zdrowakonkurencja.pl. Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

## NEW

### ZONA KRAWCA

The owners of the little U Krawca (At the Tailor's) Cafe in Warsaw's Grochów district must have decided that the tailor was a lonely soul, so they went in search of a partner for him and, lo and behold, the result is a cosy new cafe called Zona Krawca (The Tailor's Wife). Situated just a short hop from the Soho Factory complex in the Praga district of the city, it's a friendly little neighbourhood cafe with a great range of coffees and teas from around the globe, their legendary home-made cake and sandwich selection, of the moment soft drinks and a small range of niche Polish craft beers. Adding to the relaxing ambience is the minimally designed interior by locally based English maker and craftsman Mr. Jimi Ogden. ▶ **ul. Kamionkowska 29, tel. (+48) 511 07 28 08. Open 07:30 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00.** ☺ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹





*You'll be in fine spirits at The Alchemist Gastropub (p. 69)*

The explosion of bars and clubs in Warsaw over the last few years means that you are never far from a fresh beer or decent nightspot. On the other hand, it's still easy to find yourself stranded outside the bolted doors of a supposedly popular club on a Wednesday night, or staring into the bottom of a pint glass in a deserted bar. Local knowledge, trends and the Superman-like ability to scoot across town in a flash ("Taxi!") are prerequisites to achieving a successful night out. But that's why you have us. The new money crowd have certainly found a home amongst the posh eateries and glamorous nightclubs around **Pl. Piłsudskiego** (F-5) and **Pl. Teatralny** (F-5); keep in mind, however, that clubs in this area have such strict door policies that it may be easier to get out of a mobile phone contract than get in for a drink and a boogie. Warsaw's young arty crowd prefer the down-at-heel clubs and bars that have popped up in the districts across the river: **Stara Praga** (H/I-4) and the fashionable and increasingly gentrified **Saska Kępa** (K/L-7/8).

Opening hours listed here should only be treated as rough approximation; in practise many bars and clubs will stay open well beyond the call of duty if the need arises, but by the same benchmark will happily bolt the doors if business is slow. Below are a few rapid-fire suggestions for those who need an instant plan; the less desperate should spend a bit more time scrutinising our in-depth reviews section.

## LOCAL

Warsaw's best multi-tap bar **Kufle i Kapsle** (p. 70) attracts a true mix of locals, expats and tourists all of whom are attracted by their exceptional selection of hand-crafted Polish and European beers. Across the river, **OSP Saska Kępa** (p. 67) is a neat little bar and an amiable local experience with the addition of classy Polish beers.

## CHEAP

It has to be **The Pavilions** (G-7), a ramshackle collection of dive bars in the courtyard behind Nowy Świat that offers Warsaw drinking in its rawest form. And if you don't mind herring and 5zl vodka shots explore *zakąski* bars like **Bar&Restaurant Warszawa** (p. ??).

## LADS

For Sky Sports, pints and pub banter with local ex-pats head along to **Legends** or **Someplace Else** (p. 68). Once the need to 'move like Jagger' kicks in, chances are you will get into one of the clubs on **ul. Mazowiecka** (F-6); home of **Organza** (p. 72), one of the biggest international dance clubs in town, this short street also offers numerous other popular club options. Those in search of sensual pleasures and the erotic arts (otherwise known as strippers and lap dancers!) should check out our **adult section** and then proceed wisely.

## COUPLES

The pricey custom cocktails at **The Pictures** (p. 69) are made with the precision of an atomic scientist; it may not sound romantic...but it is! Judging by the numerous sexy couples seated at the bar, **Cocktail Bar Max** (p. 64) hits the right note with their 'tell us what flavours, alcohols and fruits you like and we'll mix a drink specifically for you' concept.

## SPLURGE






**Panorama Bar's** (p. 67) cocktails are worth the dip into your wallet, as are the views from the 40th floor. If you're dressed to impress hit up **Platinum Club** (p. 73) for the chance to drink like a champagne-swilling Russian oligarch.







## BARS & PUBS

### BAR AND BOOKS

This legendary New York cigar and whiskey bar crossed the Atlantic a few years ago and set up shop in Prague and now after an almost 3 year renovation they've opened their Warsaw location. This classy, colonial bar is the height of sophistication and the jovial bartenders and whimsical waitresses are wholly consumed with your complete satisfaction. The dark wood and dimly lit bar immediately draws you in but the spacious second floor 'library' is perfect for larger groups or business meetings and the balcony and terrace suit romantic sippery. They specialize in high end and classic cocktails with one of the best Scotch whiskey selections in the city. The Laphroaig Whiskey Sour we ordered was absolutely impeccable. To promote their global franchise, they offer a free cigar if you show American or Czech ID. They have live music every Thu and Fri 22:00 - 01:00 as well as occasional burlesque shows.





► F-4, ul. Wąski Dunaj 20,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 559 91 99, [www.barandbooks.cz](http://www.barandbooks.cz). Open 17:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 04:00.    

### BARDZIEJ

Advertising itself as Warsaw's first steampunk bar, Bardziej is a nice little tapas and cocktail bar on the trendy, young folk orientated, ul. Oleandrów (in traditional Warsaw style, ignore the official ul. Marszałkowska address). Dark as a dungeon, even during daylight hours, it's kitted out with higgledy piggledy copper piping, valves and meters; the whole place is very Jules Verne meets Isambard Kingdom Brunel for a plate of shrimp in coriander batter with a mango and chilli dip, followed by a few Tin Drum cocktails and a debate about where all the copper piping, valves and gauges actually lead to. Worth noting, for all the intricate U-boat style pipe work, the barman couldn't work out why the bank card reader couldn't print a receipt! ► G-11, ul. Marszałkowska 21/25 (entrance from ul. Oleandrów),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 118 27 43, [www.bardziejbar.pl](http://www.bardziejbar.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00.    

### NEW

### BEEROKRACJA

Very centrally located craft beer bar with 12 taps pumping out a regularly changing range of Polish and international ales. It differs from much of the competition in that it doesn't seem to attract the pompous crowd – partly due to the gutsy pub rock /bluesy nature of the regular live music and the fact that the interior doesn't rely on designer gimmickry to draw in the punters. In fact the interior reminds me of the bar in the St. Andrews University Students Union ((circa 1979). Added bonuses include a real fussball table and proper sandwiches to compliment your beer. A nice alternative if you need to escape from 'too cool' Warsaw drinking establishments. ► F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 99/101,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 798 66 20 14, [www.beerokracja.pl](http://www.beerokracja.pl). Open 16:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 02:00.   

### COCTAIL BAR MAX & DOM WHISKY



cocktail bar  
max

UL. KRUCZA 16/22

+48 691 710 000

WARSZAWA@BARMAX.PL

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LEGENDARY COCKTAILS  
WITH FRESH EXOTIC FRUITS







OVER 1500 BOTTLES OF SPIRITS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## MICROBREWERIES




### BIERHALLE

An industrial motif prevails in Bierhalle, with giant tailor-made brewing vats, brickwork and pipes springing from every corner. The beer is brewed on-site, and presented in frothy steins by wenches squeezed into peasant bodices. Our favourite is the pils, and it tastes even better when you ask for a dash of caramel to be added to your brew. Domestic sad cases rejoice, bottles, barrels even, of beer are available for takeaway.

► C-2, Al. Jana Pawła II 82 (Arkadia),  Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 601 67 79 62, [www.bierhalle.pl](http://www.bierhalle.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00.   

### BROWARMIA

Warsaw's other microbrewery tends to live in the shadow of the more famous Bierhalle, and though it fails to share the lively atmosphere of its rival, Browarmia is by no means second best. There's a decent design here, with all the requisite pipes, dials and tanks on display, as well as a good menu that trounces the competition. More importantly the beer is top standard and their four season heated terrace making this easily one of the best spots for people watching on the bustling Krakowskie Przedmieście any time of year.

► G-6, ul. Królewska 1,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 54 55, [www.browarmia.pl](http://www.browarmia.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00.  

## WINE BARS



Dekant Wine Bar & Restaurant

### BOATHOUSE WINE LOUNGE

Wine lovers have never had it this good in Warsaw, and this one is one of the best of the bunch. You'll find a rotating list of world wines, an expert sommelier and a smart, relaxed interior just a shot from the river. ▶ L-9, ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 389 A, tel. (+48) 22 616 32 23, [www.boathouse.pl](http://www.boathouse.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷

### BRISTOL WINE BAR

The dark wood furnishings and brass/chrome fittings contrast beautifully with the subdued colour scheme of the paintwork. The stunning old and new world wine list will impress and wines by the glass start from a very reasonable 25zł. Try out their new lunch menu as well. ▶ G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44 (Hotel Bristol Warsaw), ☎️ Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 551 10 00, [www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl](http://www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷

### DEKANT WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

With one of the best wine lists, ahem, in the world (according to NY magazine *Wine Spectator*!) their vintages include: LaRioja Alta, CVNE, Querciabella, Louis Moreau, Gramona Cava, Champagne Thienot and more. They also launched a popular daily lunch special for 29zł (featuring soup/appetiser, main & dessert) to go along with a great à la carte menu. ▶ H-6, ul. Zajęcza 15, tel. (+48) 22 828 07 52, [www.dekant.com.pl](http://www.dekant.com.pl). Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (19-79zł). ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

### WINE BAR MIELŻYŃSKI

Expert service ensures you end up uncorking the wine that best suits your mood, and the selection is utterly exhaustive. An absorbing venue, with a decent menu of light bites to complement the drinking. Also at ul. Czerna 12 (K-14). ▶ B-3, ul. Burakowska 5/7, ☎️ Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 636 87 09, [www.mielzynski.pl](http://www.mielzynski.pl). Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷

### BEIRUT HUMMUS & MUSIC BAR

A perennial favourite of ours, Beirut is pure atmosphere - the bar itself is made with sandbags, after all - and offers traditional Lebanese snacks like olive oil-soaked hummus and falafel to pair with your craft beer. When the weather is nice the front is open to the street, letting passersby marvel at the sound system and the unique hairstyles of the hip staff. ▶ F-9, ul. Poznańska 12, ☎️ Centrum. Open 12:00 - 01:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷

### BIERHALLE

Warsaw's best beer served in a bi-level space filled with chunky woods, bare bricks and industrial flourishes. The menu, presented by girls dressed in countryside apparel, features big photographs of what you can expect, including life-size pics of the beer - order a big one here and you'll be left getting to grips with clunky two pint steins that are ideal for showing off your bicep flexes. Also at (D-1, Arkadia) Al. Jana Pawła II 82, (F-4) ul. Marszałkowska 55/73, (F-10, Hala Koszyki) ul. Koszykowa 63 and ul. Klimczaka 1 in Wilanów. ▶ G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 64, ☎️ Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 609 67 77 65, [www.bierhalle.pl](http://www.bierhalle.pl). Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷

### CAFE KULTURALNA




Cafe, bar and club, Cafe Kulturalna is an amazing space, and unmissable if you appreciate a venue with character. Decorated with vinyl armchairs, artwork and tasteless 50s chandeliers this is a magnet for the student intelligentsia. DJs, film screenings, readings and assorted artsy tosh regularly held. Find it in the Palace of Culture on the Marszałkowska side of the building next to the theatre in the south-east corner. ▶ F-8, Pl. Defilad 1, ☎️ Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 656 62 81, [www.kulturalna.pl](http://www.kulturalna.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷

### CHŁODNA 25





Opened in 2004, this is the unofficial home of Warsaw counter-culture, and something of a community centre for wacky art types, they're all here - from ex-pat hacks typing up tomorrow's copy, to drama queers committing theatre scripts to memory. Distracting them from the duty at hand are jazzy tunes, poetry slams, monthly photography exhibitions, concerts, dance parties and the occasional comedy show plus plenty of wine and beer to add to the cheer. Chairs of varying style and condition, board games and batty artwork all add to the atmosphere, making C25 every bit as appealing as it is curious. ▶ C-7, ul. Żelazna 75A (entrance from ul. Chłodna), ☎️ Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 507 80 72 32, [www.klubchlodna25.pl](http://www.klubchlodna25.pl). Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. ☎️ 🍷 🍷 🍷

### COCTAIL BAR MAX & DOM WHISKY





We also question the spelling, but otherwise Max's concept is fiendishly simple, colourful and fun. Step up to the expert bar staff, give them a rundown on your favourite tipples, fruits and taste sensations and - HEY PRESTO - they concoct a magical potion especially for you! Weird and wonderful fruits and glamorous bottles of booze are imported from

around the globe. The main bar area is a bright and airy affair with bleached wood and multi-coloured seating. Tucked away at the back of the bar you will find the dark and mysterious specialist whisky and cigar area. Over 800 bottles of the 'water of life' stand like museum exhibits in dimly lit glass cases. Stare in awe at the 32-year-old Port Ellen, yours for only 1750zł a shot or if you're really looking to impress order a Maximo Havana Club Rum for only 1400 zł a shot! ► G-9, ul. Krucza 16/22, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 691 71 00 00, [www.barmax.pl](http://www.barmax.pl). Open 11:00 - 05:00.   

## CZEŚĆ

A splendid little bar for those in the know and one of the city's best kept secrets. Due to the fact that it's tucked away in a dark passageway between office blocks on the edge of historic Pl. Grzybowski, even looking for it is a bit like searching for the Holy Grail. No frills interior, eight constantly changing taps, a vast range of bottled beers and ciders and a barman who lives, breathes, guzzles and dreams of beer. It's also very popular with the higher strata of ex-pat beer "experts" and a great place to pop in for a drink and a chat with strangers who quickly become your best drinking buddies. ► E-6, ul. Grzybowska 2, **M**Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 501 69 55 12. Open 16:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 02:00.    

## ELEPHANT BELGIAN PUB

An absolute treasure trove of a bar with 22 beer taps pouring Belgian gold. As if that wasn't enough they also have an aquarium-like cold store containing over 280 Belgian bottled beers! No fancy modern design shenanigans here, just a truly traditional looking bar, bedecked with quality beer advertising, plaques and original branded glasses. You'll really believe that you're sitting in an old lowlands brown café in the heart of Warsaw's New Town. It's also well worth having a chat with the owner who has an encyclopaedic knowledge regarding the whole Belgian brewing industry. Steaks, burgers, frites and a serious cheese plate plus football matches on huge screens - why would you ever want to leave? ► F-3, ul. Freta 19, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 532 74 24 00, [www.elephantbelgianpub.pl](http://www.elephantbelgianpub.pl). Open 16:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 24:00, Opening hours are subject to change so check their website first.    

## HARD ROCK CAFE

Sure you don't need to see Freddie Mercury's red leather pants to enjoy a night out, but it certainly doesn't hurt. The Hard Rock Cafe's large downstairs bar area is jumping at night even when live rock shows aren't on the agenda. The endless bar mixes up a long list of colourful cocktails for a heavily ex-pat crowd taking in paraphernalia like a well-worn Bee Gees guitar and a black leather outfit that formerly clung to Madonna's early 90s frame. The host live Vocal contests on Wednesdays starting at 20:30 (best band/singer wins 1,000zł!) and on Saturdays they have live music from 22:00. ► E-8, ul. Złota 59 (Złote Tarasy), **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl). Open 09:00 - 24:00.    

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




# Nightlife

## HERITAGE BIRRERIA ARTIGIANALE

Now this is new or *nuovo*. An Italian craft beer bar serving all sorts of studly suds on tap and from bottles with imported artisanal snacks, cassarece pasta, steaks, burgers, ribs and schnitzels served just in time for you to order another frothy IPA or Porter. Almost as tasty as the beer itself are the labels on the bottles neatly stacked on the walls above. With just a few scattered tables and 6 or so bar stools, the deft design, warm lighting and vintage vibe makes it seem much bigger than it actually is. Full disclosure: they also feature a few British beers that were equally delicious (don't tell the Italians). *Magnifico!* ▶ H-6, ul. Tamka 9, **M**Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 737 84 14 72. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri 12:00 - 02:00, Sat 14:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 23:00.   

## HYDROZAGADKA

You will not find a more unkempt bar than Hydrozagadka; this place looks like it's been ransacked by students, and it's almost advisable to check yourself for fleas when leaving. Decorations aren't so much limited as virtually non-existent, and you won't find much more than brick walls and a collection of seats that appear to have been rescued from the rubbish. But while it looks scruffy this has emerged as one of the best places in town, with off-beat performances enjoyed by a crowd that doesn't get out of bed till way after noon. ▶ J-2, ul. 11 Listopada 22 (Praga Północ), **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 505 84 93 86, [www.hydrozagadka.waw.pl](http://www.hydrozagadka.waw.pl). Open Fri, Sat only 20:00 - 05:00 and during events.   



## NEW

## KIELISZKI NA PRÓŻNEJ

Having been named 'Wine Bar of the Year 2016', by the influential Polish wine magazine WINO, we could just end this write-up now. Kieliszki is a modern and classy venue located in one of Próźna's elegantly renovated townhouses and although they stress that the vast and impressive wine list takes priority, the Polish inspired menu by no means plays second fiddle to the grape. If you're not on for the full on dining experience, you must delve into the fantastically popular 'talerzyki' list - tapas style small dishes designed to complement the wines on offer. The whole execution of this perfect wine'n dine experience has been so successful that they've just gone ahead and opened another one on ul. Hoża - unsurprisingly called Kieliszki na Hożej. ▶ E-7, ul. Próźna 12, **M**Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 501 76 46 74, [www.kieliszkinaproznej.pl](http://www.kieliszkinaproznej.pl). Open 12:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.  

## KLUBOKAWIARNIA RESORT

What looks like a normal café at first glance is anything but: old bathtubs have been turned into couches, metal shopping carts now serve as seats and washing machines are out of sight light fixtures. Even cardboard tubes have been reinvented as chairs. While the décor is decidedly reused, the food and drinks are true originals. Cocktails are made with fresh fruit, while stomachs can be lined with whatever tasty concoctions the chef comes up with on a

regular basis. Fortunately, you can drink your bottled beer or Argentine cola without any guilt since Resort makes recycling a part of its mission. ▶ F-5, ul. Bielańska 1, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 507 17 99 35. Open 11:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00.  

## KLUBOKAWIARNIA TOWARZYSKA

Cool café/club across the river in Saska Kępa. Housed in a row of 1950's shop fronts, the owners have managed to modernise the interior while remaining sympathetic to the history of the building. On the ground level you'll find the white tiled bar serving up a variety of drinks, cakes, light dishes and a selection of trendy Polish and European magazines. Downstairs the small events room is home to exhibitions, readings, cult film screenings (shown in their original languages) and live music. ▶ L-8, ul. Zwycięzców 49, **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 270 21 79. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.   

## KRAKEN RUM BAR

The first thing that hits you upon entering this little seafood joint is the great smell which immediately makes you think of harbourside cafes and holidays to the seaside with your bucket and spade. The interior is reminiscent of a fisherman's shed; fish-box wood, sun bleached driftwood tables and chairs and a selection of old maritime imagery. The seafood is simply presented, very tasty and well priced. Also, try the Kraken rum which is made especially for the bar by the brewers at Artezian - Poland's smallest brewery. The staff are a tattooed, trendy bunch, but rather than being press-ganged and forced to set sail for the Greenland fisheries, we suspect they've just dropped out of uni and possibly taken a pedalo for a spin on a boating pond. ▶ F-9, ul. Poznańska 12, **M**Centrum. Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00.  




## LENIVIEC

This newly renovated popular cafe just got even better. Their comprehensive coffee menu now includes all sorts of alternative new wave java drinks including aeropress, chemex or drip methods of brewing. Nice, light and healthy food is on offer and early birds can pop in for a superior selection of breakfasts. The weekend themed buffet breakfasts are also a big hit and well worth waking for. In the evenings check out the cocktail bar menu; budding cosmopolitan alcoholics can sip on Manhattans or, seeing as you are in Warsaw, delve into the 'Made in Poland' section. ▶ F-9, ul. Poznańska 7, **M**Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 350 77 77, [www.leniviec.pl](http://www.leniviec.pl). Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri 09:00 - 04:00, Sat 10:00 - 04:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.   

## MIĘDZY USTAMI FOOD & WINE

Once in a blue moon someone with a wicked and unique design vision is let loose on the Warsaw restaurant/bar scene and comes up with a stunning and original looking venue - MU is such a place. The newly renovated ground level is reminds one of a decadent 19th century palace with glamorous frescoes and elegant bright colours. Once







you've gotten over the sheer beauty of the place, delve into the menu of signature tapas style dishes, marvel at the innovative cocktail list and just let the whole ambience wash over you. Surprisingly, the basement area is an open eating space with a more contemporary feel. The addition of DJ's and regular live live music adds to the whole creative vibe of this classy venue. ► **G-10, ul. Mokotowska 33/35, tel. (+48) 530 32 33 25. Open 12:00 - 23:00, Thu 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00.**   






### OSP SASKA KEPA

Sharing none of the pretence of nearby ul. Francuska, this great café, social club and fire station (crazy, but true!) is by far one of the jolliest places in Saska. OSP attracts a variety of customers; off duty firemen, locals, arty types, kids playing in the play area and a very happy little Jack Russell terrier. Tasty, cheap home cooked Italian influenced dishes and a good range of difficult to find beers are on offer - think 25 regional brews from around Poland and Czech Republic. Don't forget to try on the collection of firemen's helmets and hats after a few beers. ► **ul. Walecznych 74 (Saska Kępa),  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 667 03 08 03, www.ospsaskakepa.pl. Open 13:00 - 22:00, Sun 13:00 - 21:00.**    

### PANORAMA SKY BAR

Warsaw's - and indeed Poland's - highest bar sits on the 40th floor of the Marriott with prices to match the top tier location and a VIP room to boot. The views of Warsaw glimmering below are outstanding, and there's simply no better place in town for *Sleepless In Seattle* seduction, or a corporate chinwag. ► **E-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79 (Marriott Hotel),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 74 35, www.panoramaskybar.pl. Open 18:00 - 02:00.**   

### PARDON, TO TU

There are places that try to be cool, and then there are places that just are. Pardon, To Tu falls comfortably into the latter. A music club for people who actually know and love music (not loud bass and lasers). Disinterested (re:cool) DJs play whatever they want for the low-key crowd of hipsters and their dogs hanging out beneath vinyl records that you can buy off the walls. They've also got good, cheap Italian food to curb the munchies. Host to frequent concerts, workshops, book readings and film screenings, this is a veritable cultural centre and a great place to make new friends. ► **E-7, Pl. Grzybowski 12/14/16,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 513 19 16 41, www.pardontotu.pl. Open 10:00 - 03:00.**    





### PIES CZY SUKA

Pies Czy Suka ("Dog or Bitch") is a high-end design boutique that opened a craft cocktail bar and part time club, with stunning results. The space itself is what you might expect when design folk are in charge: touchscreen menus, a tapas menu, a rotating wall gallery featuring well-known Polish artists and lots and lots of white. The imaginative drinks are the main focus, and though they don't arrive quickly, they do come with a free show; creating molecular foam and




## JAZZ

### 12ON14 JAZZ CLUB



Warsaw hasn't had a proper Jazz Club in a long time but 12 on 14's recent emergence has filled the void and then some. This jumpin' joint has a clear mission, to promote the proliferation of Polish jazz and present a world class stage for top international acts. Hosting several major concerts every week, plus occasional jam sessions and student ensembles, this thoroughly modern club has fantastic acoustics and impeccable sounding instruments (some were donated by top Polish Jazz artists). After recently celebrating their 150th concert, they will take a short break and reopen on August 17th for what promises to be an exciting Summer/Fall concert season. Stop by their ticket office (which doubles as a Jazz CD shop) or check out their website.

► **F-10, ul. Noakowskiego 16,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 635 49 49, www.12on14club.com. Open 17:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun.**   




### METRO JAZZ BAR & BISTRO

Bathed in soothing shades of grey, this is a classic jazz bar where aesthetic shortcomings are brushed over with a pot of atmosphere. Take to one of the swivelly bardside stools to knock back the barman's creations while taking in jazz performances on Tuesday and Thursdays that fluctuate hugely in both style and volume. ► **F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 99A (Metropol Hotel),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 325 31 06, www.hotelmetropol.com.pl. Open 12:00 - 24:00.**  

juicing figs takes some elbow grease, and conversations are punctuated by the loud, rhythmic thwack of ice against the cocktail shaker. Expensive, but worth every złoty - try the Gin Basil Smash or Tequila Rucola Smash. ► **G-7, ul. Szpitalna 8A,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 501 85 01 14. Open 13:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 02:00.** 

### PIW PAW

61 tap beers and a wall of refrigerators stuffed to bursting with over 200 bottled beers may sound like you've died and gone to heaven, but it makes for a rather odd business plan. Besides bragging rights, we can't really see the reason behind the massive selection, or the fact that the venue only has around a dozen tables and, even more scarily, only two toilets! In fairness, a large amount of trade comes from the off-licence side of things - even the tap beers can be poured into containers and taken with you. The meticulous queuing system at the bar also detracts from it having a real pub atmosphere. Whatever the down-sides, one cannot deny their passion for great beer. Also on ul. Foksal 16 and ul. Mazowiecka 9. ► **G-8, ul. Żurawia 32/34 (entrance from ul. Parkingowa),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 534 73 45 00, www.piwpaw.pl. Open 24hrs.**  

## SPORTS ON TV



Legends British Bar & Restaurant

You just have to watch that match, don't you. The venues listed below have sports on the tele, and the largely ex-pat crowds that come with the territory.

### CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT

A classic sports bar filled with glittering trophies, signed shirts and other sporting detritus. Some 35 digital screens and projectors beam out action from across the world, while those wishing to exercise more than their eyes can choose from pool tables, playstations and dart machines that beep and whirl during moments of particular drama. Although huge, it's also hugely popular, so we recommend you book a table in advance if there's a particularly big international or Champions League match on. ► E-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79 (Marriott Hotel), **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 36 87, [www.champions.pl](http://www.champions.pl). Open 12:00 - 24:00.

### LEGENDS BRITISH BAR & RESTAURANT

British owned and run, not 150 metres from the Marriott, this is a resto-pub with a bright, clean look, four flatscreen tvs on which you can watch SKY and Canal +, real dart boards and a cracking menu of British-style grub to soak up the Polish beer, British ales and rarely-seen spirits like Captain Morgan dark rum. To add that extra sports feel, walls come decorated with pictures depicting all the games the British have invented for the rest of the world to beat them at. Don't miss their 'legendary' English Pub Quiz the first Friday of every month (20:00). ► F-9, ul. Emilii Plater 25, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 622 46 40, [www.legendsbar.pl](http://www.legendsbar.pl). Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri 11:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00.

### SOMEPLACE ELSE

Located in the Sheraton, SPE has flat screens stationed around an upmarket industrial space – even during the Sunday brunch televisions did double duty showing ski races and tennis. A great menu of American classics like burgers and steaks along with an extravagant selection of drinks. ► H-9, ul. Prusa 2 (Sheraton Warsaw Hotel), **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 450 67 10, [www.warszawa.someplace-else.pl](http://www.warszawa.someplace-else.pl). Open 12:00 - 01:00; Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00.

### PLAN B

Walk up a curving stairwell to enter Plan B, a venue where the ceilings are high and the windows are low – so low you'll have to crouch for views of pl. Zbawiciela. Plan B has seen minimal investment, with a design that must have set the owner back the price of a packet of sausages; decor is limited to little more than tatty posters, black tiles and sofas with springs practically sticking out of them. But this place has become astonishingly popular, especially with students and other sorts who look like they've just finished band practice. Don't be surprised to find the party spilling outside, with gangs of drinkers chucking frisbees and sharing sneaky puffs on Moroccan cigarettes. Drunkenness is rife and encouraged, and it's only fair to note this place has become a bit of a magnet for expat lads looking to tap up impressionable Polish girls. ► G-10, Al. Wyzwolenia 18, **M**Politechnika, tel. (+48) 503 11 61 54. Open 11:00 - 03:00, Sun 13:00 - 24:00.

### ROCK FRIENDS

Just a plectrum flick away from the corporate world of Warsaw's Hard Rock Café, Rock Friends is a groovy little local bar. The dark space is highlighted with a few stencilled portraits of rock stars, the music is classic rock 'n roll and the atmosphere is jovial and friendly. Only one beer on draught, but 10 bottles and a great range of cocktails, including a number of signature mixes based on a range of inspired home-made nalewkas (flavoured alcohol). Fortnightly solo gigs, cheap beer on Wednesdays, cheap whiskey on Thursdays and two of the nicest bar owners in town, Konrad and his multi-lingual partner Ania, make this what it is - a brilliant little drinking den! ► E-8, ul. Śliska 3, **M**Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 515 96 71 23. Open 15:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun.

### THE ALCHEMIST GASTROPUB

Welcome to the future of drinking. As you make your way to the stylish bar past the spacious terrace, you'll quickly notice a strange site on the far wall: 8 pristine unattended taps all begging you to imbibe. This is the Alchemist's patented "Beer Wall" and it is the first of its kind in Europe. Top up a handy "Beer Wall card" then pour yourself as many local craft beers, proseccos or ciders as you like. If you magically leave with excess credit on your card, just come back tomorrow and keep it rolling (beer cards are good for up to 6 months!) Futuristic guzzling gizmos aside, their food is also top notch with an all day menu that includes intriguing beer snacks, British gastropub classics, American burgers and sandwiches, impeccable pizzas plus breakfasts served during the weekend from 10:00-14:00. ► F-5, Plac Piłsudskiego 3, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 628 00 23, [www.thealchemist.pl](http://thealchemist.pl). Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri 11:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00.

Where's the party?

[facebook.com/WarsawInYourPocket](https://facebook.com/WarsawInYourPocket)





## THE PICTURES ART BAR CAFE

Modern, slick and central, The Pictures lives up to its name with high-quality original art and photographs (no reproductions here) on the walls. While particularly pleasant during its day guise as a quiet cafe and bargain lunch spot, in the evening this place is packed with hipsters drawn to the smart service, crafty cocktail list, and simple but tasty and affordable food. Some places deserve to be trendy, and this is one of them. ► F-8, ul. Chmielna 26,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 826 17 83, [www.thepicturesbar.com](http://www.thepicturesbar.com). Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00.  

## WARSZAWA POWIŚLE





Set in a former ticket hall this PRL-era concrete rotunda and a bit of a gathering ground for those enjoying post-Luztro fix-me-ups. Interiors here are all cheap and chipboard - tables included - and while it looks tatty and torn it's become a HQ of sorts for hardcore clubbers bouncing by night and hiding their hangovers behind reflective specs by day. How to find it? Walk down the platform on Powiśle Station, then hang a right down the stairs. An extra incentive to visit: they have an expanded food menu (all day breakfast, veggie treats & Polish dishes). ► I-7, ul. Kruczkowskiego 3B,  Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 22 474 40 84, [www.warszawapowisle.pl](http://www.warszawapowisle.pl). Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri 09:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.  

## W OPARACH ABSURDU

This bar could have a weird-off with fellow Praga bar Po Drugiej Stronie Lustra that would easily end in a draw. Both favour twinkle lights, flea market knick-knacks and crap furniture, though Absurdu has recently been renovated and embraced strong colours, and bright murals. Absurdu is spread over numerous rickety levels and populated by local bohemians who crave live music, strong drinks and craft beer. A small menu of snacks and Polish staples (yep, pierogis) are available to line your stomach. ► J-3, ul. Żąbkowska 6,  Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 660 78 03 19. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00.   

## NEW

## ZAMIESZANIE

Pet project from the guys at craft beer bar Cuda na Kiju. Situated next door to Cuda, in the former Communist Party HQ building, it's a small, minimal and stylish affair with an amazing range of unique cocktails which come bottled or via taps and are prepared in their own basement 'laboratory'. Cocktail professors may balk at the idea of pre-prepared bottled cocktails but actually the concept of allowing the flavours to infuse is a pretty nifty plan. All potions can be sampled prior to committing yourself to a stiff one. Check out the hundreds of ceiling hung bottles and ruminate over what may have passed through your liver over the years! ► H-8, ul. Nowy Świat 6/12,  Nowy Świat-Universytet. Open 17:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 03:00.   

## ZNAJOMI ZNAJOMYCH

With two levels and a strange arrangement of rooms newcomer Zna Zna can feel as if you're wandering through an M.C. Escher drawing. Here's a primer: the first floor features a large smoking room and several adjacent rooms with seating, and the main floor has a bar with DJ/dance floor - we saw a keytar being played - and more labyrinthine seating areas. The pile of taxis outside should tell you this is currently one of Warsaw's favourite places, with huddles of hipsters and interpretive dancers sharing space and spilling drinks together. There's even a respectable menu of salads, pasta and pizza that's available into the weekend wee small hours to soak up the booze, and a movie room for weekly screenings (check their FB for days and times). Recommended. ► F-9, ul. Wilcza 58A,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 628 20 61, [www.znajomiznajomych.waw.pl](http://www.znajomiznajomych.waw.pl). Open 12:00 - 01:00, Mon 12:00 - 24:00, Fri 12:00 - 02:00, Sat 13:00 - 02:00, Sun 13:00 - 24:00.   

## MULTI TAP BARS/BREW PUBS





### BREWDOG

Hailing from the 'Best Small Country in the World' myself, that's Scotland by the way, and being a massive fan of BrewDog from the outset in 2007, my wee heart filled with joy to hear that the newest world city in their search for craft beer domination was Warsaw. Love or loathe BrewDog's madcap K Foundation style marketing antics, daft product names and smug business success - originally via crowd funding and selling 'shares' in the company, one cannot help but fall to one's knees and worship at the temple of the Dog! A grand range of their own magical beers, some specially selected local craft beers and a menu matched to various brews. Situated slap bang in the city centre, there really is no excuse not to visit. ► G-8, ul. Widok 8,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 464 82 84, [www.brewdog.com](http://www.brewdog.com). Open 12:00 - 01:00, Mon, Sun 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00.  



@WarsawIYP

## CHMIELARNIA

At first glance the mix of a real ale multi tap bar and a Thai/Nepalese eatery may sound a little odd but, on the other hand, what do most Brits do on a Friday night? - Guzzle beer and top it all off with a fiery vindaloo. So, in reality it's a pretty crafty idea. Fairly non-descript interior - which suits the dour socialist-realist architecture of the building pretty well really, unpredictable staff - which is quite fun actually and a great selection of rotating beers on tap. Recent beers included; Hop Jizz (New England Pale Ale) and Sticky Fingers (IPA), best not to ponder those names too much! ► G-11, ul. Marszałkowska 10/16,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 782 28 88 89, [www.chmielarnia.pl](http://www.chmielarnia.pl). Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri 11:00 - 02:00, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00.   

# Nightlife

## CUDA NA KIJU

Finally the wait is over and Warsaw has its very own specialist draught beer bar. Housed in the former communist party HQ, just next to the statue of General De Gaulle, this 3 level bar hosts an impressive 16 taps pouring beers from around Poland and Europe. The enthusiastic and highly knowledgeable barmen are constantly on the prowl for new guest beers for the ever changing menu. The interior design is unobtrusive and kept to a minimum which makes for a nice and airy atmosphere and outdoors features three different seating areas, so take your pick depending on the weather. The owners should really be given a special prize for this brilliant initiative, in true Warsaw tradition what they'll probably get instead is dozens of copycat bars appearing around town in the coming months! ▶ **H-8, ul. Nowy Świat 6/12, [M] Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri 10:00 - 02:00, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.** [P] [S] [W]

## HOPPINESS BEER & FOOD

One of the newest additions to the ever-expanding multi-tap bar scene in the capital this centrally located beer-sippery and bistro is under the patronage of the overachieving Pracownia Piwa brewery. They offer 12 changing taps, dozens of bottled local and international beers. Unlike most of their competitors though, they serve up much more than average salty beer snacks. Juicy high quality burgers, hot sandwiches (pulled pork), and delectable mains with things like purple carrot puree and they even have beer ice cream to top it all off. Sprawl out on their summer garden for some world class people watching or grab a table inside near the flatscreen to catch the game. Hoppiness is true happiness. ▶ **G-7, ul. Chmielna 27/31 lok. 76, [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 730 36 92 71, www.hoppiness.ontap.pl. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00.** [P] [S] [W] [W]

## KUFLE I KAPSLE

Hot on the heels of the original Warsaw real ale bar 'Cuda na Kiju' comes this beer drinker's paradise. The name 'Kufle i Kapsle' means 'Beer Mugs and Bottlecaps' and the interior is a perfect blend of European traditional bar design mingling with Polish features, such as the large tiled heater in the back room. Sixteen taps are on offer and the bottled beer selection has more variety than a Glaswegian glass recycling bin! An interesting selection of bar snacks are also available (beery pretzels). In contrast to many other local bars, expect it to be packed and buzzing from around 17:00. We love it! (Also visit their new location at ul. Księdzka Jerzego Popiełuszki 19/21 paw. 1). ▶ **G-8, ul. Nowogrodzka 25, [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 127 72 18, www.kufleikapsle.pl. Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri 14:00 - 04:00, Sat 12:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 02:00.** [S] [W]

## CLUBS

### BOLLYWOOD LOUNGE

Smack dab in the heart of the action on Nowy Świat, this combo restaurant, club and shisha lounge is always a great go to spot. As the night moves on it's all sequined dresses, scented water pipes and shaking hips and undulating bellies in here. Every Tuesday from 20:00 - 24:00 they host live

concerts of all kinds while Thursdays they host thematic music parties alternating live concerts and DJs week to week while Friday and Saturdays mean dance parties from 22:00 and on Sundays they have karaoke from 20:00 (with vodka shots for only 6zł!). Poland is often perceived to be not particularly cosmopolitan and rather conservative. Bollywood kicks that perception right out of the park. ▶ **G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 58, [M] Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 827 02 83, www.bollywoodlounge.pl. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Mon 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 01:00.** [P] [S] [W]

### CLUB MIRAGE

A totally unique experience, this is a club like no other in Warsaw. Not because it's anything particularly special, but because it is set in the bowels of the monstrous Palace of Culture. Descend the stairs through the entrance facing the central railway station into a mass of writhing young bodies getting down around the centrepiece fountain. Once you're done there, retreat to the long bar and lounge area to relax before heading back out into the surprisingly unpretentious party crowd. The coat check looked after by moustachioed men in their 50s gives a small hint of the days when this place must have been frequented by the great and not so good of communist Poland. ▶ **E-8, Pl. Defilad 1 (entrance from ul. Emilii Plater), [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 620 14 54, www.clubmirage.pl. Open 21:00 - 05:00, Wed, Thu 21:00 - 02:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.** [P] [S]

### ENKLAWA

It may be quiet by day, but Mazowiecka is home to a number of the city's top night spots and high up the list comes Enklawa. Keeping their fingers on the pulse of current club trends, live music and fashion events it attracts a pretty classy and sassy weekend crowd. If you can't wait for Friday to come around, hit their truly legendary Old School Night (70's-80's music) on Wednesdays. Enklawa's popularity means that invites, passwords or being able to prove that you are the lead singer of M People may be required to get past the lads on the door. ▶ **F-6, ul. Mazowiecka 12, [M] Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 827 31 51, www.enklawa.com. Open 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Sun.** [S]

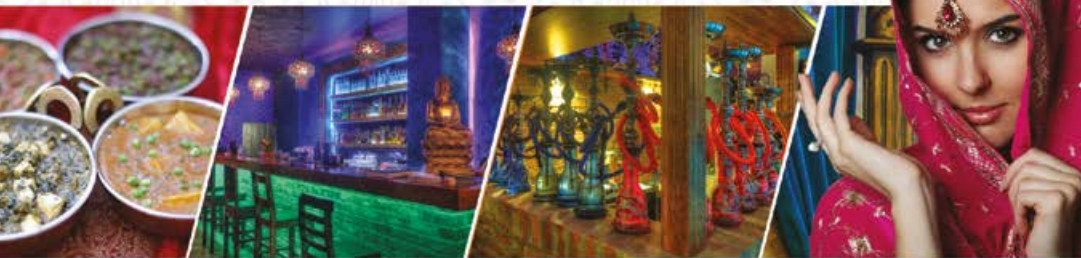
### KLUB HYBRYDY

Hybrydy, in various incarnations, is actually one of the oldest clubs in Warsaw. Its roots go back to the jazz and poetry beatnik era of the late 1950's via the alternative music scene of the rebellious 1970's and 80's. Under the ownership of Warsaw University it's mainly a student orientated club with cheaper entrance for young 'academics' looking to strut their funky stuff on the dance floor. Wednesday - Saturday sees a weekly cycle of popular club nights and they also host a programme of concerts, stand-up comedy nights and a variety of one-off events. If they don't like the look of you, it's very possible you'll be turned away with a curt "Students only!" If that happens, don't worry, at least you'll be in the very centre of the city. ▶ **F-7, ul. Złota 7/9, [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 822 87 02, www.hybrydy.com.pl. Open 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.** [P] [S] [W]





# ORIGINAL INDIAN CUISINE



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## POLISH SNACKS & SHOTS

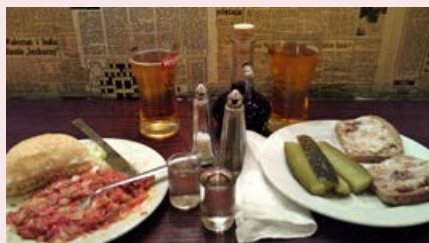


Photo by Karol Grzenia

A very Polish phenomenon that has swept the country in recent years is the 24-hour snack and shot bar. Known locally as **'Zakąski Przekąski'** (literally 'Appetisers & Snacks'), or 'Polish Tapas' as it's been dubbed by some, these trendy, formulaic budget bars cash in on communist nostalgia and the appeal of low prices by offering a small selection of simple, local appetisers (typically served cold) for about 8zł each, with drinks typically fixed at 4zł. Familiar as the bar food of the lean communist years, the menu typically includes *śledz* (pickled herring in oil), *galaretki* (pig trotters in jelly), *kielbasa* (sausage), *pierog*i, pickles and tartare.

### BAR&RESTAURANT WARSZAWA

Like the original location, they serve up 14zł snacks like herring and 5zł vodka shots 24/7. Thur and Fri there's live music from 20:30 and DJs take over the dance floor on Fridays and Saturdays starting at midnight. If you're still feeling peckish head upstairs to Restauracja Warszawa for a fancier feed. ▶ F-5, Krakowskie Przedmieście 79, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 510 40 08 64, [www.barwarszawa.pl](http://www.barwarszawa.pl).

### META NA FOKSAL

Love it – decorated with old vinyl, newspaper clippings and propaganda posters, they unite Capitalist Warsaw with the PRL pig of the past. It's a great concept, though even better are the prices. Snacks weigh in at 9zł, and a shot of voddie at 5. These factors (plus night owl open hours) make it a favourite with a lubricated crowd of late night carousers. Put simply this place is Przekąski Zakąski taken to the next level. ▶ G-7, ul. Foksal 21, tel. (+48) 22 826 45 13, [www.metanafoksal.pl](http://www.metanafoksal.pl). Open 11:00 - 06:00. (9zł).

### PIJALNIA WÓDKI I PIWA

When the vaunted *New York Times* came to Warsaw to do a story on the growing trend of old-school zakąska bars - ie watering holes with cheap 4zł vodka and beer and piles of pork jelly and herring for 8zł - they headed straight for Pijalnia Wódki i Piwa. Say no more. ▶ G-8, ul. Nowy Świat 19A, **M**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 796 11 00 00. Open 24hrs.



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City Essentials App



### KLUBO

Covertly hidden down a long corridor, finding Klubo is easier than you'd imagine – just follow anyone who looks like they're looking for a good time. This classic club is undergoing something of a renaissance. They have a stack of household DJs that can keep all three dance-floors (house, disco, r&b/rock respectively) packed any night of week. The funky decor includes retro lamps and sofas that have seen some serious loving. ▶ F-8, ul. Czackiego 3/5, **M**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 500 11 44 89, [www.klubo.pl](http://www.klubo.pl). Open Thu, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 06:00 only.

### OPERA

A no-expense spared design masterpiece found in the basement of the National Opera. Descend the curving stairwell and all you'll see is boys with attitude, dressed in popped collared polo shirts, and a heart-stopping spread of gazelle-like girls. If you were wondering where the good lookers went, you've found the answer. Tread down wood boards and through vaulted tunnels to reach the main arena, checking out the numerous side rooms on the way; this place was formerly known as Bedroom, and that's because of the alcoves found shooting off in every direction. Each comes decorated with poufs, loungers and Persian drapes, and serve as a great spot to enjoy illicit activities. If your searching for a venue for your next private party, you can rent out the whole place from Sunday to Thursday. ▶ F-5, Pl. Teatralny 1, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 828 70 75, [www.operaclub.pl](http://www.operaclub.pl). Open Fri, Sat 22:00 - 06:00 only.

### ORGANZA

After a 10 year streak on the Warsaw scene Organza had to close down and move, but that short hiatus has not caused it to lose its footing. The navy blue and silver bi-level space is regularly packed, and apparently no one here thinks disco is dead as it is usually packed every night of the week with all sorts of theme parties and special events. Expect to rub shoulders with the likes of hen parties, 9-to-5ers and students on the dance floor all looking to cut loose and cut some serious rug. ▶ F-7, ul. Mazowiecka 12, **M**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 609 88 66 44, [www.organza.pl](http://www.organza.pl). Open 22:00 - 05:00.





## SYMBOL KEY

- No smoking
- Credit cards not accepted
- Animal friendly
- Facilities for the disabled
- Live music
- Smoking room available
- Wi-fi connection

**PLATINIUM CLUB**

Status is everything in Warsaw, and you'll be awarded plenty of it if you can wheedle past the gatekeepers at Platinum. Door policy is stringent here, mercilessly culling the beasts from the beautiful, thus ensuring everyone inside is either rich or beautiful – sometimes both. Regarded as Warsaw's finest club this place, set inside a historic former bank, has seen plenty of money spent, with a design that includes marble columns, chandeliers and glowing floors. This is champagne living Warsaw-style, meaning hot sounds from the DJ decks and a riotous party that goes way, way late. ▶ F-5, ul. Fredry 6,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 694 41 34 39, [www.platinumclub.pl](http://www.platinumclub.pl). Open Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00 only.   

**NEW****RITUAL COCKTAIL CLUB**

After a brief hiatus, when ul. Mazowiecka went from being a buzzing, club lined street to a period when many venues came and went with the speed of a passing Polish railways Pendolino train. The opening of Ritual has put it back on track to becoming flavour of the moment once again. A playground for the city's rich and airbrushed party maestros, it's a stunningly sumptuous, dark and sultry venue with some of Warsaw's master concoction mixers behind the bar, club/dance nights and a healthy scoop of unthreatening live music. Don't dress like some of the musicians though, they probably won't let you in – we reckon they come in the tradesman's entrance. Weekend table reservations are almost compulsory. ▶ F-6, ul. Mazowiecka 12,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 723 23 55 55, [www.ritualwarsaw.com](http://www.ritualwarsaw.com). Open 18:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.   

**ROOM 13 CLUB & LOUNGE**

Warsaw has had the benefit of a club explosion (clubsplosion?) lately, and after visiting venue upon venue Room 13 is the one that stands out. The interior has a striking fallen angel theme, with pillowy clouds painted across the ceilings in the multiple rooms, and giant images of what Victoria's Secret has taught us an 'angel' looks like. And if your idea of heaven is two bars, a VIP room, a wide array of music and lots of high heels, then consider this your HQ. ▶ F-6, ul. Mazowiecka 13,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 827 60 44, [www.room13.pl](http://www.room13.pl). Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed.   

**SHEESHA LOUNGE**

Having added a massive dose of pizzazz to the formerly grubby little street behind the city centre Novotel, when the weekend rolls around Sheesha transforms from its peaceful daylight persona into one of the most popular dance venues in town. Its regular club nights see the ground floor level turned into a giant dance floor and in-house DJ's Coolman, Momo and Saad knock out the mainly Arabic, oriental and R&B fat beats for the sexy crowd. Belly dancers and darbuka players make frequent appearances to add to the multi-cultural shenanigans and there is occasional live music as well. Dive into the vibe,

watch from the mezzanine floor or just chill in the newly renovated basement bar area. The restaurant remains open and puffing on a hookah is highly encouraged. Strict door policy to keep the oiks, drunks and great unwashed from spoiling the fun. ▶ G-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 33,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 828 25 25, [www.sheesha.pl](http://www.sheesha.pl). Open 10:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 03:00.   





**SYRENI ŚPIEW**

This stylish lounge bar and club is the perfect spot to sip away the day and party the weekend away. Located in a centrally located park the modernist bar blends into the luscious landscape. Slide inside and let them ply you with upscale cocktails and top shelf whiskies while you schmooze to some smooth tunes. While it's a low key high class chill during the week, on the weekends the vibe goes sublime with carefully curated live music and DJs that keep the parties going all night long. And to give you some recovery time they're closed on Sunday through Wednesday. Having just opened a few years ago, this melodious mermaid has already made a serious splash. ▶ I-9, ul. Szara 10A,  Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 602 77 32 93, [www.syrenispiew.pl](http://www.syrenispiew.pl). Open Thu 21:00 - 02:00; Fri, Sat 21:00 - 06:00 only.   

**THE VIEW WARSAW**

Warsaw's first hyper-posh rooftop nightspot is finally here, and it's everything you imagine it to be and more. Once you clear the streetside queue (get there promptly at 22:00 or suffer the consequences), squeeze past the burly bouncers and stroll the red carpet in the lobby before queuing for two elevators that whisk you up to the club in the clouds. The 360 degree bird's eye views alone are worth the trip as you emerge right in the middle of Warsaw's rapidly rising skyline. Take it all in with a bubbly cocktail in hand, but if you want a seat make sure you reserve ahead of time. Aside from A-list DJs and all-night parties al fresco and in the newly opened club space (28th floor), The View promises, above all, primo people-watching as the city's glitterati, celebs and business tycoons all crowd around the iconic circular bar. THE place to see and be seen in Warsaw. ▶ E-7, ul. Twarda 18,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 663 97 19 42, [www.theview.pl](http://www.theview.pl). Open Fri, Sat only: 22:00 - 05:00. 

**NEW****XOXO**

Warsaw's newest and dare we say most ambitious super club has arrived and it's everything it's cracked up to be. This massive club brings serious production values to the Warsaw nightlife scene. From big name global DJs, to huge champagne disco rave ups, to fashion catwalk shows and all manner of private events (MMA anyone), the sky is the limit (if you have the budget!). Make sure to check out their calendar of events online before queuing up for face selection. In short, make sure you dress to impress and have style for miles. XO ▶ H-8, ul. Marii Konopnickiej 6,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 665 22 52 26, [www.xoxoishere.com](http://www.xoxoishere.com). Open Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00 only.   





**Wishing you  
a Merry  
Christmas**

**Mazowiecka Str. 6/8  
+48 505 469 056  
kontakt@coyoteclub.pl**

**We  
Are Waiting  
For You**

The advertisement features two blonde women wearing Santa hats and blowing kisses. The Coyote Night Club logo is in the top left corner. The background is dark with red and white decorative elements.



**57 STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS  
(AND 4 QUITE UGLY) ARE WAITING FOR YOU @ PLAYHOUSE**

**PLAYHOUSE**  
— GENTLEMEN'S CLUB —




**AL. SOLIDARNOŚCI 82A  
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WWW.PLAYHOUSE.PL  
KLUB@PLAYHOUSE.PL**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
UP UNTIL 5 A.M.**



The advertisement features three large female symbols, each containing a photo of a woman. The background is dark with blue and purple lighting. A woman in a black dress and pearl necklace is in the foreground.



## COYOTE BAR & NIGHT CLUB

On the new Street of Sin that is ul. Mazowiecka, Coyote Club is an adult entertainment establishment of the 'girls in their underwear which leaves little to the imagination will dance for you' variety. Drinks (the beers at least) are not as outrageously priced as in other similar places and we have to say that the girls we bumped into when we popped in for a quick one were sirens. ▶ F-6, ul. Mazowiecka 6/8, **M** Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 692 35 74 94, [www.coyotenightclub.pl](http://www.coyotenightclub.pl). Open 21:00 - 05:00.   



## NEW ORLEANS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

A slightly higher-class of punter frequents this exclusive Gentlemen's Club. At the weekends you'll find New Orleans to be a crowded more standard strip joint with girls tottering around in next to nothing, and offering the usual hip-grinding action. Now added, a 'night restaurant' with an 'erotic' menu featuring Argie steak and many other tempting treats. If the flow runs low just saunter awkwardly over to their in house ATM machine. ▶ F-7, ul. Zgoda 11, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 600 06 36 67, [www.neworleans.pl](http://www.neworleans.pl). Open 20:00 - 05:00.  

## PLAYHOUSE GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

This smart gentleman's club, located in a chunky communist era building on al. Solidarności, has certainly hit the top of the tree (or pole?) with their classy approach to showing off the female form in luxurious surroundings. Their reputation in this market has even gone international, with influential website AskMen.com recently voting them the best strip club in the world! Three floors covering over 800m2, four bars, three VIP rooms an in-house ATM and 57 sizzling hot women (plus 4 quite ugly ones, as their legendary advertising states!) makes Playhouse THE place to visit for the discerning gent, or lady I suppose, with a penchant for the erotic. ▶ D-5, Al. Solidarności 82A, **M** Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 794 00 70 00, [www.playhouse.pl](http://www.playhouse.pl). Open 21:00 - 05:00. 

## SOFIA

A legend in nineties and noughties Warsaw, there was a time no self-respecting male could leave Warsaw without having first visited Sofia. Those days may have gone and so it seemed had Sofia. But it appears not with the opening of this place, three years after the original closed, just down from Pl. Zbawiciela which boasts a modern spacious club area and a host of minimally dressed women. In the wild days of nineties Warsaw this was known in local parlance as The Bulgarian Embassy. It'll be interesting to see if it lives up to the reputation it built then. ▶ G-11, ul. Polna 13, **M** Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 224 25 24, [www.klubsofia.pl](http://www.klubsofia.pl). Open 20:00 - 05:00. Closed Sun.  



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**LEGENDARY  
NIGHT CLUB  
IN WARSAW!**

**One of the most  
sophisticated places in the  
heart of Warsaw.**

**Eighty sensual dancers  
will introduce you to our  
intimate and relaxing  
atmosphere.**

**If you are going  
to visit Warsaw  
- you have to visit**

SOFIA  


**Night Club Sofia**  
**Polna 13 street, Warsaw**  
**OPEN: Mon - Sun from 8 PM**  
[www.klubsofia.pl](http://www.klubsofia.pl)



*Warsaw boasts a skyline befitting a capital city; harness its energy and make the most out of your time here.*

# Warsaw Sightseeing

DISCOVER THE CAPITAL'S MANY TREASURES



Decades went into rebuilding Warsaw's Old Town, so don't overlook it.

Sightseeing and Warsaw don't usually go together, and the reason for that, if not the blame, falls on her citizens. While some cities may have been happy to wait out Nazi occupation, the Warsaw locals were having none of that. The ensuing uprising which took place in 1944 would become both the most glorious and tragic episode in the city's history. Doomed from the outset the Warsaw Uprising (p.105) enraged Hitler, and his retribution proved swift and brutal. Warsaw was to be wiped from the face of the map, and his cronies set about their orders with a zealous fury. While Red Army tanks stood stoically stationed across the river the Nazis set about blasting western Warsaw into oblivion. Anything deemed of cultural importance was dynamited, and whole districts were set on fire. By the time 'liberation' arrived, over 85% of the city lay in total ruin. "I have seen many towns destroyed, but nowhere have I been faced with such destruction," commented a visibly moved Dwight Eisenhower on a later visit to the city. That the city still stands at all is tribute enough to the indefatigable spirit of the Polish capital.

Nowhere bore the brunt of the Nazi malice more than the **Old Town** (p.90), and it's here that most tourists will choose to start their tour of Warsaw. Using paintings and photographs as an architectural blueprint, the Old Town was painstakingly rebuilt, with the reconstruction of the historic centre only completed as late as 1962. The area's inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List speaks volumes for the effort involved, and nothing is more striking than the colourful, wonky-looking burgher houses that frame the **Old Town Square** (Rynek Starego Miasta, F-4).

The historic centre is also home to numerous churches, including the striking **St. John's Cathedral** (p.81) whose details number gothic artworks as well as the tombs of knights, regents and eminent citizens. Marking edge of old town is the **Royal Castle** (p.91), reconstructed from a pile of rubble at incredible cost between 1971 and 1984. The prescribed tour will take you through the Kings' apartments and chambers, heavily adorned with paintings of famous Polish moments. Although you'll find plenty of photographic opportunities in and amongst the tight cobbled alleyways save a few shots for the viewing platform at the top of **St. Anne's Church** (p.80), and don't leave the area without first exploring the lesser known delights of the **New Town**.

There is far more to Warsaw than its Old Town however, and one museum that demands to be visited is the **Warsaw Uprising Museum** (p.106). It's here that you'll learn about the city's doomed rebellion against the Nazis in 1944. Packed with interactive displays, photographs, video footage and miscellaneous exhibits this is guaranteed to leave a deep mark on all visitors, and will go a long way in explaining why today's Warsaw is far from the architectural pearl it once was.

Although the Nazis flattened the Jewish Ghetto after a heroic uprising in 1943 there are still traces of Warsaw's Jewish past (p.107), including a remaining piece of the **Ghetto wall** (ul. Sienna 55, D-8), a memorial where the loading ramp to Treblinka once stood (**Umschlagplatz**, p.109), as well as one of the largest **Jewish cemeteries** in Europe (p.108). The crowning jewel for those with an interest in the city's Jewish past, however, is **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews** - the biggest financial investment ever made in a cultural venue in Poland's history (p.109). The results are amazing, and like the Uprising Museum, it's simply a museum you shouldn't leave town without visiting.

Despite some amazing new projects in recent years, the city's defining landmark will always remain the fearsome **Palace of Culture and Science** (p.113). Looking like something you'd see in *Ghostbusters* the building towers at just over 231 metres in height, and was until recently the tallest and largest structure in Poland. Commissioned by Stalin as a 'gift from the Soviet people' the building was completed in 1955 and built using an estimated 40 million bricks. The crowning glory of the structure is the viewing platform on the 30th floor, a must see.

Across the river the **Praga suburb** (p.102) is undergoing a long due revival, and its growing reputation as an artistic haven is evident in the cafes that have sprung up along the pre-war **Ząbkowska street**. But while the Praga area is breathing once more, it still looks shabby. For a glimpse of Warsaw's Imperial beauty head instead to her palaces, in particular **Łazienki Park and Palace** (p.96) and **Wilanów Palace** - dubbed 'The Polish Versailles' (p.101). Enjoy exploring Warsaw.



Museum of the History of Polish Jews

## NEON MUSEUM



Ilona Karwińska

A brilliantly illuminating (ha!) private initiative by London-based photographer Ilona Karwińska and graphic designer David S. Hill to salvage Poland's culturally significant neon signs of the 1960's-70's from the dustbin of history. During the post-Stalin years these neons were seen as symbols of economic success and the strive towards a more open and culturally relaxed society. The glowing signs, designed by some of Poland's top architects and designers, advertised products, cinemas, dancehalls, restaurants and cocktail bars and also served as local landmarks. The post-communist years saw a scant disregard for anything connected to that era, many buildings were demolished and the beautiful neons were simply tossed into skips or left in states of disrepair to rot away. Luckily, Karwińska and Hill saw the significance of these artefacts and have managed to save over 200 neons and around 500 letterforms from certain destruction. The museum is also home to a huge archive of documentation, blueprints, photographs and original plans relating to the history of these signs. Housed in the super cool Soho Factory complex, the museum is certainly a one of a kind experience and well worth a visit for anyone interested in design history and Poland's past. Remember to keep your eye out for some of the remaining old neons which are still 'in-situ' around Warsaw - for example the brilliant 'Netball Player' on Plac Konstytucji or the 'Dancing' sign on Nowy Świat. ► **ul. Mińska 25, Soho Factory, Building 55, M Stadión Narodowy, tel. (+48) 665 71 16 35, [www.neonmuzeum.org](http://www.neonmuzeum.org). Open 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 10/8zł.**



Mat Fahrenholz

## GUIDED TOURS

### ADVENTURE WARSAW

Tours of Warsaw including the popular "off the beaten path" tour which delves into Socialism, communism and of course vodka, all while cruising in a vintage Nysa 522. You can even get inside the Palace of Culture and Science for a look around. Group, private and walking tours also available from this crew of young, enthusiastic local guides, who will even take you and your stag party around town or host a pub crawl. Make time to check out their Museum of Life in the PRL (Muzeum Życia PRLu, ul. Mińska 22 - entrance from ul. Glucha. Open 10:00 - 16:00; Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Admission 8/5zł). ► **ul. Mińska 25 (Praga Południe), M Stadión Narodowy, tel. (+48) 606 22 55 25, [www.adventurewarsaw.com](http://www.adventurewarsaw.com).**

### CITY SIGHTSEEING WARSAW

If Warsaw needed proof that it has finally arrived as a tourist destination surely the launch of City Sightseeing is it. Hour-long tours by way of a familiar red, double-decker bus let you take in sights such as the Palace of Culture, the Royal Castle, Łazienki Park and the Wyrżęże Gdańskie. Buy one ticket and hop on and off the bus as you please. The bus departs Mon-Fri every hour between 11:00 - 15:00, Sat and Sun 11:00 - 17:00 from the Palace of Culture on the Emilii Plater side. Commentary available in a multitude of languages including English, Polish, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Finnish and Hebrew. See their website for tour details, routes and timetables. ► **E-8, tel. (+48) 793 95 79 79, [www.city-sightseeing.pl](http://www.city-sightseeing.pl). Tickets 24hr 60zł, 48hr 80zł, 72hrs 90zł or one trip 40zł.**

### CREATOURS

Whether you love it or loathe it, the Palace of Culture (PKiN) is a spectacularly imposing architectural reminder of the Communist era. We love it, and there is no better way of visiting than taking one of CREATours guided jaunts around the most imposing halls and chambers in the building including the basement and nether chambers. The tour culminates in a visit to the 30th floor viewing platform for stunning views of the city. Those who loathe it are keen to point out that the viewing platform is also one of the only places in Warsaw from which you won't have to view the building itself! Book your tickets in advance on their website. ► **F-8, Pl. Defilad 1 (entrance from ul. Marszałkowska), M Centrum, tel. (+48) 798 99 95 21, [www.creatours.pl](http://www.creatours.pl).**

### EAT POLSKA

Ever wondered what Polish cuisine has to offer beyond pierogi? Let energetic tour guides lead you round some of their favourite haunts and introduce you to how the locals guzzle and gulp! Sample a variety of Polish dishes and vodkas while learning how social and historical events shaped the popularity of Polish cuisine. Walking between venues also allows the knowledgeable guides to point out places of interest (The Food Tour lasts about 4 hours



Imagine that all the lights go out...

# NI EWIDZIALNA WYSTAWA



One hour journey in pitch dark, guided by a blind.

Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 123a - Millenium Plaza

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and the Vodka Tour is about 3.5-4 hours) They also offer pierogi-making workshops if you want to polish your Polish cooking chops (literally). Make sure to book ahead by phone or through their website. ► **F-8**, tel. (+48) 661 36 87 58, [www.eatpolska.com](http://www.eatpolska.com). Food tours (includes a full meal, plus dessert) 290zł; Vodka tours 260zł.

## STATION WARSAW

Warsaw's first bike tour company gets it right with a range of cycle tours including City of Contrasts on the weekends (16:30 Fri, Sat) and several other tours (Wow! Warsaw, Jewish Warsaw, Wild River, Communist, Warsaw by Night) which are organised by private reservation only. Bike tours start from ul. Długa 44/50. Prices 80zł if you book online and 100zł if you pay on the spot. Their Orange Umbrella walking tours take place daily at 10:00 around Old Town and they also offer a Jewish (Tue, Thu, Sat) or a WWII tour (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun) both starting at 13:30 on their respective days. All walking tours meet at King Sigismund's Column in the Old Town. ► **E-4**, tel. (+48) 661 36 87 58, [www.stationwarsaw.com](http://www.stationwarsaw.com). Call them to find out the single and group prices.

## WARSAW CITY-TOUR

Bus tours of Warsaw on a yellow double-decker bus. The entire route takes about 1.5-2 hours and covers all the major sites in the city including the Old Town, Jewish Warsaw, WWII, Palace of Culture and Łazienki Park. Buses run at 09:50 and 11:50 plus in the winter months one day tickets are valid for two day tickets and two day tickets valid for three. ► **F-6**, tel. (+48) 500 03 34 14, [www.city-tour.com.pl](http://www.city-tour.com.pl). Single journey ticket 40/34zł. One day ticket 60/54 zł. Two day ticket 80/72zł. Family tickets (2 adults and 2 children) 205zł/day, 274zł/2days; 130zł single journey; (2 adults and 3 children 254zł/day, 340zł 2 days; 160zł single journey). One and two day tickets offer hop on/hop off option.

## WARSAW SELF-DRIVE TOUR

The Warsaw Self-Drive Tour is a brand new service from the people at WPT1313 tours. They now provide you the unique chance to explore Warsaw in a variety of vintage Polish commie cars including the iconic FIAT 126p. They also offer convoy packages so groups can tour the city together with your friends. Check out all of their different

cars and packages on their website, then call them up, hop in, tuck in your knees and off you go! ► **F-8**, Plac Defilad 1, tel. (+48) 22 882 13 13, [www.wpt1313.com](http://www.wpt1313.com).


## WPT 1313

Now here's a novel idea; buy up a fleet of legendary communist era Polski Fiat 125P cars, restore them, paint them New York cab yellow and provide tours around the city with your very own quirky and highly informative driver/guide. A great way to take a trip into the past, learn something and travel around in one of the most iconic vehicles of the 1960's-70's. Tours include: "On the Trail of Polish Communism", "Jewish Warsaw" and the "Warsaw Must See Tour". For detailed info on all their services and to make a booking visit the company website. [www.wpt1313.com](http://www.wpt1313.com) ► **F-8**, Plac Defilad 1, tel. (+48) 22 882 13 13, [www.wpt1313.com](http://www.wpt1313.com).


## TOURIST INFORMATION

### TOURIST INFORMATION

This central tourist information office is inside the Palace of Culture (if you exit central station on the Żłote Tarasy shopping complex side and cross over the road you'll see it). Inside you can choose from a series of guides as well as buy some souvenir books and gifts.

► **E-8**, Palace of Culture, Pl. Defilad 1 (entrance from ul. Emilii Plater),  Centrum, [www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl). Open 08:00 - 18:00.

### TOURIST INFORMATION

Find this point on the Market Square of Old Town where you can pick up maps, guides, book tours and buy gifts and souvenirs. ► **F-4**, Rynek Starego Miasta 19/21/21A,  Ratusz Arsenal, [www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl). Open 09:00 - 18:00.


### TOURIST INFORMATION

Located in the arrivals hall of the new part of the airport, the point is small but has all the necessary guides and maps you might need including In Your Pockets. ► **ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1** (Airport), [www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl). Open 09:00 - 19:00.


## CHURCHES

Many Poles still see a direct connection between the Church and patriotism, explained much by the fact that during centuries of oppression by neighbouring powers, the Catholic Church helped the Poland survive by giving the Polish nation an identity. Although on the wane in post-communist Poland, the church still plays an important role in many people's lives and churches reflect the importance of religion in the country's history. Warsaw is home to dozens of churches, the majority of which we simply don't have room to print in our guide, however you can find a more exhaustive review of religious buildings in the capital on our website: [warsaw.inyourpocket.com](http://warsaw.inyourpocket.com).

### CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND OF ST. JOSEPH


Known more commonly as the Carmelite Church, this structure features a stunning neoclassical facade originally created in the 18th century. It features twin bellfries and is most notable for being the site of Chopin's first employment as he was invited to perform a recital on the church's organ. The church is set directly next to the Presidential Palace. Call first to arrange a visit. ▶ G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 52/54,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 556 61 00, [www.wmsd.waw.pl/kosciol](http://www.wmsd.waw.pl/kosciol). Open by prior arrangement. No visiting during mass please.

### MILITARY CATHEDRAL


Comprised of both the St. Francis of Assisi Church and monastery and built between 1662 and 1663 by the Piarist friars, the extraordinary Military Cathedral, also known as the Church of Our Lady Queen of the Polish Crown, is the capital's main garrison church. Having spent time as an Orthodox Church, prison, orphanage and a depot for German soldiers during WWI the church was reconstructed based on original 17th-century drawings after independence in 1918 and became the seat of the field bishop of the Polish Army. Again rebuilt after its destruction during WWII, the church is now decorated with a peculiar mix of religious and military artefacts, including a number of large oil paintings depicting the most well known of Poland's battles and uprisings. Below the Cathedral this is also a Field Ordinary Museum. ▶ F-4, ul. Długa 13/15,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 261 87 77 02, [www.katedrapolowa.pl](http://www.katedrapolowa.pl). Open 06:30 - 19:00. No visiting during mass please. The museum is open 10:00-18:00, Mon closed.

### ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

St Anne's survived the war with a few token scratches and a collapsed roof, but what the Nazis failed to destroy was very nearly demolished by a team of incompetent builders - by 1949 the whole church threatened to come crashing to the ground. The thoughtless construction of the nearby Trasa W-Z tunnel had led to several landslides, resulting in huge cracks appearing in the floor of the church. It took a team of 400 people two weeks of tireless work to stabilise the undersoil and shore up the foundations. Intriguingly, this

wasn't the first time St Anne's had survived vicious conflict to find disaster around the corner. It escaped destruction during the war with Sweden (1650-1655) only to be gutted by fire two years later, apparently the victim of an arson attack. The classicist façade dates from 1788 and is the design of the royal architect Piotr Aigner. The interior holds even more classicist and rococo details. The viewing tower is one of the best in Warsaw and worth the 147-step climb. One other point of interest concerns a simple wooden cross you will see there. These two planks of wood became the focus of a battle that threatened to divide the country in the summer of 2010. To read the story behind that see our piece on the presidential cross. ▶ G-4, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 68,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 89 91, [www.swanna.waw.pl](http://www.swanna.waw.pl). Open 08:00 - 15:00, Sun 08:00 - 19:00. No visiting during mass please.

### ST. BENNO'S CHURCH

Benno's has a wacky history. King Sigismund III was a devotee of St. Benno and invited peer priests from Bavaria to Warsaw in the 17th century. Their main aim was to support Germans living outside their home country. Ironically, in 1944, the chapel was blown to smithereens by you-know-who. Rebuilt by the Poles in 1958, it now has an interesting interior dating from 1977. ▶ F-3, ul. Piesza 1,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 578 70 10, [www.swbenon.redemptorysci.eu](http://www.swbenon.redemptorysci.eu). Open during mass and by prior arrangement.

### ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH

Founded by Mary Sobieski, wife of King Jan III Sobieski, to commemorate her husband's victory over the Turkish army at the Gates of Vienna. The baroque-style church was designed by Tylman van Gameren and was completed in 1692. In 1944 it served as a Polish field hospital, and received a direct hit from a German bomb, killing more than 1,000



civilians, priests, nuns and soldiers who were inside. Today it has been fully restored and has a charred wooden cross as tribute to those who died. Please note that the church specially requests solemnity and quiet while visiting. ► F-3, Rynek Nowego Miasta 2, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 831 49 62, [www.sakramentki.opoka.org.pl](http://www.sakramentki.opoka.org.pl). Open by prior arrangement.

### ST. FRANCIS SERAPH CHURCH

Completed in 1733 this baroque masterpiece holds the remains of St Vitalis; see the glass coffin for yourself by visiting the chapel to your left. Many of the religious relics found scattered around were donated by Pope Benedict XIV in 1754, and this church is also entered in the history books as holding the first free mass in Warsaw following the flight of the Nazis. ► F-3, ul. Zakroczymska 1, **M**Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 831 20 31, [www.warszawa.franciszkanie.pl](http://www.warszawa.franciszkanie.pl). Open 07:00 - 19:00. No visiting during mass please.

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL

Originally built in the 14th century, St. John's is steeped in history. The last king of Poland, Stanisław August Poniatowski, was crowned and eventually buried here, and in 1791 he also declared the Constitution of May 3 inside the building. The crypt holds the bodies of Henryk Sienkiewicz (writer), Gabriel Narutowicz (Poland's first president) and various Mazovian knights. Other interesting details to look for include the covered walkway that links the Cathedral with the Royal Castle. It was added in 1620 as a security measure following a failed assassination attempt on King Sigismund III. As with most major landmarks, it was the scene of heavy fighting during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and was subsequently left in a heap of ruins before being rebuilt in pseudo-gothic style. On the external wall by the main entrance are fragments of a Goliath - a remote-controlled tank used by the German army. A 17th century bell made by artisan Daniel Tym (who also made the statue of King Sigismund III atop the famed column) can now be found in the centre of ul. Kanonia (B-2). The bell itself never rang at the cathedral, but it has developed its own legend: touch the top of the bell and walk its circumference and your wish will come true. ► F-4, ul. Świętojańska 8, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 831 02 89, [www.katedra.mkw.pl](http://www.katedra.mkw.pl). Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sun 15:00 - 17:00. No visiting during mass please.

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Scan the horizon of the New Town and chances are you'll find your eyes settling on the Gothic shape of the Church of the Visitation of St Mary. Built in the 15th century on the whim of a Mazovian princess this brick beauty allegedly stands on the site of an ancient pagan place of worship. Extensively remodelled over the centuries it was rebuilt true to its original form after WWII. ► F-3, ul. Przyrynek 2, **M**Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 831 22 53, [www.przyrynek.pl](http://www.przyrynek.pl). Open 30 minutes before and during mass only and by prior arrangement.

## HOLY CROSS CHURCH



Mat Fahrenholz

No Chopinologist can leave Warsaw without first visiting the final resting place of his heart. Added to the church in 1882 his heart was sealed in an urn and then placed behind a tablet bearing his likeness specially carved by Leonardo Marconi.

Although this serves as the church's key draw there's several other features of note to tempt the visitor inside this astonishing Baroque creation. The church's history originally dates from the 15th century when a small wooden chapel stood on the site. Destroyed during the Swedish Deluge of the 1650s, the church was rebuilt in 1682, with the cornerstone being ceremoniously laid by Prince Jakub, son of King Jan III Sobieski. Designed by the royal architect, Jakub Bellotti, it was completed in 1696 though over time would see numerous additions to its shape. The most notable of these would come in the following century when Józef Fontana added two Baroque crowns to the square-cut twin towers. His son Jakub would later extensively refurbish the façade with Jan Jerzy Plesch adding elaborate decorative touches to the interior.

Throughout history the church has played its role in Warsaw's glories and calamities. It was here that the last Polish King forged the Order of the Knights of St Stanislaus, and it was directly outside in 1861 that Russian troops brutally suppressed a patriotic protest. It was this bloodbath that lit the touchpaper for the January Uprising of that year. Devastated during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 the church was painstakingly rebuilt at the end of the war and is today a feast for the heart, eyes and soul. The organ (built in Salzburg in 1925) is the largest in Warsaw, and other points of note include an urn with the remains of Nobel Prize winning author Władysław Reymont, and tablets honouring various Polish icons including poet Juliusz Słowacki and WWII hero Władysław Sikorski. ► G-6, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 3, **M**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 826 89 10, [www.swkrzys.pl](http://www.swkrzys.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 14:00 - 16:00, No visiting during mass please (at 12:00 daily).

## TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO



History produces few men like Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817). Kościuszko's highest ideal was freedom, and he used his own to try and secure it for all those less fortunate. In one country - Poland - he failed and is remembered as the greatest hero who ever walked the land. In another country - America - he succeeded, and

yet has been almost completely forgotten.

A large monument to Kościuszko was unveiled in Warsaw on November 2010 in the presence of the Polish President and the US Ambassador. The monument is an exact copy of one in Washington by sculptor Antoni Popiel given to Americans on behalf of the Polish nation. At its unveiling outside of the White House in 1910 the promise was made to erect a copy in Poland if ever the country regained its independence.

Kościuszko himself was educated in Warsaw, and then Paris when Poland was partitioned for the first time in 1772. Kościuszko soon found himself attracted to the American fight for independence and it was as a colonel in the engineering corps that Kościuszko distinguished himself, playing a key role in the decisive turning point of the northern campaign - the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777. Kościuszko was then charged with fortifying West Point, New York, where he built an impenetrable fortress that would later become America's premier military academy. Rewarded with citizenship, the rank of Brigadier General and land in Ohio at the end of hostilities, Kościuszko found himself instead drawn back to Poland whose aggressive neighbours continued to threaten its sovereignty.

On May 3, 1791 the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth created the first constitution in modern Europe, and four days later the Russian army crossed the border triggering the Polish-Russian War of 1792. Kościuszko again distinguished himself in battle and became regarded as Poland's leading military strategist. However the neighbouring powers further reduced the power and size of Poland through the Second Partition of Poland (1793). Using his experience from the American Revolution, Kościuszko led a peasant revolt that would become known as the 'Kościuszko Uprising', scoring a quick victory over the Russian army at Racławice. His ultimate defeat, however, resulted in the Third Partition of Poland (1795) and Poland disappeared from the map of Europe for the next 123 years. ► E-6, Pl. Żelaznej Bramy, Ratusz Arsenal.

## MONUMENTS

### ADAM MICKIEWICZ MONUMENT

Patriot, poet and the man who inspired Romanticism in Poland, Mickiewicz stands out as Poland's greatest literary figure - as well as a figure of hope during a bleak age of Russian oppression. His involvement in politics saw him exiled east in 1824 by the ruling Russians, before finally heading to western Europe in 1829. A bid to return to his homeland in 1830 was thwarted at the border, and he never saw his native Poland again.

Much mystery surrounds his life; his role as a national cultural icon meaning that much of the seamier side of his life has been covered up, including his involvement in strange cults and alleged womanising. To this day, even his birthplace remains a hot source of argument. Some say Nowogródek (Lithuania), others say the nearby Zавоссе (Zaossie). A champion of freedom, he died during a cholera outbreak in Turkey, 1855, while recruiting a Polish legion to fight the Russians in the Crimea. Originally buried in Paris, Mickiewicz's body now lies in Wawel Cathedral, Kraków.

His defining masterpiece, *Pan Tadeusz*, is a beautifully written epic portraying Polish society in the 19th century. His statue dominates ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście, and traces of bullet holes dating from WWII are still visible on the monument. ► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 5, Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet.

### CHARLES DE GAULLE MONUMENT


Charles de Gaulle is the subject of one of Warsaw's more prominent monuments. Striding away from what was once the Commie party HQ, the monument is a gift from the French government and can be found on (H-8) Rondo de Gaulle'a. A resident of Warsaw in the 1920s, de Gaulle is a bit of a hero in these parts for the role he played in The Battle of Warsaw in 1920. With Europe in turmoil following the aftermath of WWI the Red Army launched a huge military strike, aimed at enslaving the rest of Europe. The Bolsheviks expected an easy march to Paris, but the Poles had other ideas. With the Red Army just 23km from Warsaw Marshal Piłsudski launched a deft action to split the Bolshevik forces in two and encircle them. The battle raged from August 13-August 25, 1920, with the Poles claiming a historic victory in what Woodrow Wilson went on to describe as the 'seventh most important battle in history'. The Bolshevik forces were decimated, and Europe saved. De Gaulle fought with distinction and was awarded the highest military honour in the country, the *Virtuti Militari*.

► H-8, Rondo de Gaulle, Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet.


### IGNACY PADEREWSKI MONUMENT

Born in Kuryłówka in 1860 Paderewski is fondly remembered as a politician, patriot and musician. Having entered the Warsaw Conservatorium at the age of 12 he worked as a piano tutor after graduation. The death of his wife, just a year after they married, spurred him to commit his life to music and in 1887 he made his public debut in Vienna. His talent was obvious and his growing popularity saw him storm both Europe and the States, not just as a pianist,




but a masterful composer as well. He was based in Paris during WWI and it was during this time he became actively involved in politics, becoming spokesman for the Polish National Committee. With the end of the war he sought a return to his homeland where, having played a key role in the Wielkopolska Uprising (which saw Poznań merged into the newly reformed Polish state), he was elected Poland's third ever prime minister. It was he who signed for Poland's part in the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, though his fall from grace was just around the corner. Many thought he had sold Poland short and in the face of growing public discontent he resigned from office in December 1919. A short stint as Poland's representative in the League of Nations followed before he opted to resume his musical career. Aside from being a skilled musician, the mop haired Paderewski was also a popular public speaker, known for his devastating wit. One anecdote recalls him being introduced to a polo player with the words: 'You are both leaders in your spheres, though the spheres are very different'. Not one to miss a beat Paderewski deadpanned 'Not so very different, you are a dear soul who plays polo, and I am a poor Pole who plays solo'. During WWII he became an eminent figure in the London based exiled Polish Parliament, though died in 1941 with the country of his birth still under occupation. ► **H-10, Park Ujazdowski,  Politechnika.**

### JAN KILIŃSKI MONUMENT

A huge monument honouring Jan Kiliński, a Warsaw cobbler who became the unlikely hero of the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising. Despite being wounded twice, Kiliński and his troop of peasants captured the Russian Ambassador's Warsaw residence; an action that ultimately led to his imprisonment in St. Petersburg. Said to embody the Polish virtues of bravery and patriotism, his statue was erected in 1936 and originally located on pl. Krasińskich. In reprisal for an attack on the Copernicus Monument, Nazi troops hid Kiliński inside the vaults of the National Museum. Within days, boy scouts had daubed the museum with the graffiti 'People of Warsaw! I am here, Jan Kiliński.' After the war the cobbler was returned to his rightful place, before being finally relocated to ul. Podwale in 1959. ► **F-4, ul. Podwale,  Ratusz Arsenal.**

### JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI MONUMENT

Casting a steely gaze over the square named in his honour is a gloomy looking Field Marshal Piłsudski, a man many Poles hold responsible for winning the country its independence in 1918. Regarded as a political and military hero this man did more than most to free Poland from the shackles of Russian control; his early years saw him imprisoned in Siberia after being wrongfully convicted of plotting to assassinate the Tsar, though his finest hour undoubtedly came in 1920 when he beat off the Bolshevik hordes at the gates of Warsaw, inadvertently saving a battered post-war Europe from being flooded by the rampant Soviets. Unveiled in 1995 this particular monument is the work of Tadeusz Łódziana, and Piłsudski fans can view another such monument to the man on ul. Belwederska. ► **G-6, Pl. Piłsudskiego,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet.**

### NICOLAUS COPERNICUS MONUMENT




The founder of modern astronomy. A sheltered academic, he made his observations a century before the invention of the telescope and without help or guidance. His book *De Revolutionibus* (1543) posited that the earth rotated on its axis once a day, travelled around the sun once a year, and that man's place in the cosmos was peripheral. This may seem obvious today, but it was an utterly radical idea at the time.

Although astronomers who propagated his ideas were burnt at the stake and the Catholic church placed *De Revolutionibus* on its list of banned books (as late as 1835), there was no turning back progress. The modern cosmological view - that our galaxy is one of billions in a vast universe - is this man's legacy.

The statue itself was unveiled in 1830 and has seen its fair share of adventure. During WWII the Nazis placed a bronze plaque insinuating that the great man was in fact - gasp - a German. In 1942, a boy scout called Alek Dawidowski ducked the guards and removed the plaque. Boiling with fury, the Nazis removed the statue, hid it in Silesia and dynamited a few other surrounding monuments for good measure. The statue was recovered in the years following the war, while Dawidowski has entered Polish folklore as a result of his bravery. ► **G-6, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet.**

### NIKE


Just before hitting the WZ tunnel that rumbles below the old town visitors can't fail but see a giant cast iron statue of Nike: as in the Greek Goddess of Victory, not the shoe. Standing with sword raised aloft this noble structure is actually officially named 'Monument to the Heroes of Warsaw 1939-1945', and remembers the thousands of locals who fought against - and died under - Nazi rule. The statue made its debut in 1964, originally standing on pl. Teatrny. This was before there was any official memorial to the Warsaw Uprising, and as such Nike became the favoured assembly point for Polish veterans, as well as student agitators in later years. In 1997 Pl. Teatrny underwent a well-deserved facelift and the fearsome Nike found herself forklifted over to her current spot where she stands with a watchful eye over the cars and buses that gasp to-and-fro. ► **F-5, near Pl. Zamkowy (Trasa W-Z scarp),  Ratusz Arsenal.**

# Sightseeing

## RONALD REAGAN MONUMENT

A large bronze statue of U.S. President Ronald Reagan now calls Warsaw home after an unveiling in November 2011 that included former Polish President and Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa. The large 3.5-metre monument portrays Reagan, who was the 40th president of the United States and held office from 1981-1989, when he stood at a podium at Berlin's Brandenburg gate and declared, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," back in 1987.

So why are the Poles using their valuable bronze on the Gipper? In Poland Reagan is considered one of the 20th century's most important leaders thanks to his long-standing opposition to communism. During Reagan's Christmas address in 1981 he cited the persecution of the Solidarity trade union by the country's communist government as evidence that the regime was waging "war against its own people." That holiday season candles were put in the windows of the White House to show Reagan's support of the Solidarity movement and the Polish people. Reagan's continued policy of vigorously promoting democracy and condemning communism is credited as hastening the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and along with Pope John Paul II he was a strong supporter of Wałęsa's campaign for presidency in 1990. During the unveiling ceremony Wałęsa noted his belief that without Reagan Poland wouldn't be a free nation today. The statue, which was created by Polish sculptor Władysław Dudek, can be found across the street from the United States embassy.

► H-9, Al. Ujazdowskie,  Centrum.

## 'SYRENA' - THE WARSAW MERMAID

The mermaid is the symbol of Warsaw, and as such you'll find her likeness on everything from buses to beer cans. Firmly established as an icon of Warsaw you'll find no less than three mermaid statues in Warsaw, specifically on Old Town Square (F-4), Świętokrzyski Bridge (I-5) and on ul. Karowa (G-5). The original mermaid – or syrena in local parlance – stands in the Historical Museum, and was crafted from bronze by the expert hand of Ludwika Nitschowa.

The first known mention of a mermaid as the symbol of Warsaw can be traced to a royal seal dated from 1390, though this one certainly wasn't much to look at depicting a hideous looking bloke with a dragon's tail. It's no surprise that over the next few centuries this rather grim form was given a bit of plastic surgery. The actual legend rather has been debated and disputed scores of times. One story is that Prince Kazimierz, while hunting in the marshlands that are now Warsaw, lost his bearings and faced a night in the open. Miraculously, a mermaid emerged and guided the prince to safety by firing burning arrows into the sky. Warsaw was founded out of gratitude, and the mermaid adopted as its emblem.

Another story suggests that the Warsaw mermaid originally hailed from foreign climes. Accompanied by her twin sister the pair swam across the Baltic Sea, arriving in Gdańsk. Here the sisters split, one swimming to Copenhagen and the other down the Vistula finally emerging near the present-day Old Town. Local fishermen soon noticed someone

tampering with their nets, freeing the fish in the process, and teamed up to catch this pesky vandal once and for all. They soon changed their minds once they saw her, and her siren-like singing voice made her a firm favourite among the lads. All except one who decided to trap her and take her on tour around the sideshows of Poland. His plan was soon foiled after a smitten fisherman hatched a daring plan to free her. In thanks to the townspeople who rescued her the Syrenka swore to make it her life's mission to protect Warsaw. It's this defensive stance of hers which explains why you'll see her armed to the teeth with a sword and shield. ► G-4, Rynek Starego Miasta 21/21A.

## MUSEUMS

Warsaw now has an ever more impressive selection of museums, and even older establishments are getting facelifts to bring the visitor experience into the 21st century. Without doubt the big four places on your list – all of which you'll actually find in other sections of the guide – should be the **Uprising Museum** (p.106), which charts the defining period in the history of modern Warsaw; the **Copernicus Science Centre** (p.117), which is the city's most interactive and kid-friendly museum; the **Chopin Museum** (p.111), which is both interesting and another one of Warsaw's best examples of a modern museum experience; and the new **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews** (p.109), which highlights 1,000 years of Jewish history in Warsaw. Most of the museums listed below present a cycle of temporary exhibitions, details of which can be found in our Culture & Events section on page 20.

## ADAM MICKIEWICZ MUSEUM OF LITERATURE

Find out about the smart Alec who inspired Romanticism in Poland. As well as having a number of manuscripts and historical artefacts connected with Mickiewicz, the museum also has exhibits connected with other leading Polish writers. If Polish writers are your bag be sure to check out the three other related sites that are part of the city's Museum of Literature and celebrate historic authors: the Władysław Broniewski Museum of Literature at ul. J. Dąbrowskiego 51 (F-6), the Andrzej Strug Museum of Literature at Al. Niepodległości 210/10A (F-4) and the Maria Dąbrowska Museum of Literature at ul. Polna 40/31 (F-4) temporarily moved to Rynek Starego Miasta 22/24. ► F-4, Rynek Starego Miasta 20,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 831 76 91, [www.muzeumliteratury.pl](http://www.muzeumliteratury.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Wed, Thu 11:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat and every last Sun of the month. Admission 6/5zł, Sun is free for the permanent exhibit. Children and Students up to 26 years of age pay 1zł. 

## ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Tragically overlooked by far too many visitors to Warsaw (who can't see past World War II and communism) this is a joy of a museum that showcases and highlights all that's best about Poland's cultural heritage. There are costumes, handicrafts, furniture, Polish inventions, art, photographs; most of it is beautifully presented in what is

a superb building. The museum is one of the city's most active, putting on all sorts of temporary exhibitions plus they organise hands-on events and workshops. Directors of Warsaw's other museums might want to come and take notes. Just brilliant, and unquestionably essential. A major renovation was completed not so long ago and the current permanent exhibits "Ordinary Extraordinary", "Time to Celebrate Polish and European Folk Culture" and "The Order of Things" can all be explored. ► **F-6, ul. Kredytowa 1, [M]Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**, tel. (+48) 22 827 76 41, [www.ethnomuseum.pl](http://www.ethnomuseum.pl). Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Prices for the temporary exhibition are 20/10zł, group ticket 15zł. Permanent collection admission is 12/6zł, students up to 16 years of age 1zł, Thu free. [B]

## GALLERY OF PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE AND THE DECORATIVE ARTS

The east wing of the Royal Castle's main floor is now home to a permanent exhibition of various works of art that had formerly been spread throughout the property, including two works by Rembrandt: The Girl in a Picture Frame and The Scholar at the Lectern. Both paintings were part of a major donation of 37 works of art given by Countess Karolina Lanckorońska, a Polish resistance fighter and concentration camp survivor who, upon Poland's return to independence in 1989, bequeathed her family's art collection to the nation. The Castle has done an impressive job of staging the artworks, with muted walls and focused lighting keeping all the attention on the various portraits of 16th and 17th century royalty like Marie Antoinette and still life paintings of flower-filled bounties. There's a room devoted to porcelain, tapestries and glassware from the era. The Castle's free admission on Sundays have seen the new gallery overrun with visitors, so serious art lovers will want to pay for the chance to wander at a less harried pace. **The gallery will be closed during the week in January for renovations but will remain open on the weekend.**

► **G-4, Pl. Zamkowy 4 (Royal Castle), [M]Ratusz Arsenal**, tel. (+48) 22 355 51 70, [www.zamek-krolewski.pl](http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 30/20zł, family ticket 15zł per person, group ticket 25/15zł. Sun free. [B]

## INVISIBLE EXHIBITION

Would you pay good money for an exhibition you can't see? That's the idea behind Niewidzialna Wystawa ("The Invisible Exhibition"), which takes visitors into the world of the sightless. The roughly hour-long tours (which we recommend you book in advance to avoid waiting) are helmed by guides who know of what they speak: all are partially or completely blind themselves. Tours begin with several stations that help get you acclimated to the challenges blind people face daily. You'll get to tap on a Braille typewriter, test out gadgets that help the sightless do tasks in the kitchen, and try to solve simple puzzles while wearing a blindfold. Once you're sufficiently awed by

your inability to do even minor tasks the guide leads the group into the main portion of the exhibition: a pitch-black series of rooms that force you to rely on your other senses to get by (we're not kidding about the darkness level; be prepared). You'll visit an art gallery, a bar and take a walk 'outside' while the guides ask questions about what you're encountering – you'll be listening for the swoosh of cars before crossing the street, or feeling a sculpture to discern what kind of art it is. If you bring along change the guide will even serve you a drink in the completely dark bar. An eye-opening experience that will have you thinking heavily about what you take for granted. ► **C-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 123A, [M]Centrum**, tel. (+48) 504 32 44 44, [www.niewidzialna.pl](http://www.niewidzialna.pl). Open 10:00 - 20:00, Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 24-28/19-25zł, family ticket 69zł. Tickets reserved online cost 3 zł less per ticket. [B]

## KATYŃ MUSEUM

The Museum has recently been relocated to the impressive Citadel and the permanent collection can now be viewed in appropriately grand and stoic surroundings. The museum documents the shocking events of 1940 when around 20,000 Polish officers were executed by their Soviet captors in the middle of a Russian forest. The museum has a host of objects, documents and personal effects that have been recovered from the site near Smoleńsk, Russia. The artefacts from the victims and a scrolling list of the victim's names needs no explanation and the multimedia presentation of the extenuating circumstances, the victim's stories and historical relevancy are well thought out and it's worth exploring the whole museum. ► **E-1, ul. Jana Jeziorańskiego 4 (entrance from Nowomiejska gate), [M]Dworzec Gdański**, tel. (+48) 261 87 83 42, [www.muzeumkatynskie.pl](http://www.muzeumkatynskie.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Wed 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission free. For groups of 10 or larger they provide a free guide.



# Sightseeing

## MUSEUM OF INDEPENDENCE

Rather ironically, the museum that charts Poland's struggle for freedom was home to the Lenin Museum during communist rule. Celebrating Polish patriotism, the museum covers all the key dates of Polish history, including the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising, the 19th century insurrections, Piłsudski's return to Poland, WWII and the rise of Solidarity. Among the 48,000 exhibits are objects recovered from WWII concentration camps, and some wonderful displays of Socialist Realist artwork. ► E-5, Al. Solidarności 62, **M Ratusz Arsenal**, tel. (+48) 22 826 90 91, [www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl](http://www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl). Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 10/5zł. Thu free.

## MUSEUM OF JOHN PAUL II COLLECTION

This is exactly the kind of overlooked museum that houses gems tourists will consider themselves lucky to stumble upon. In 1986 Janina and Zbigniew Porczyński gifted the country with 400 paintings and sculptures acquired through years of dabbling in Western European art. The Porczyńskis themselves are an interesting duo – she was sent to Siberia in 1940, then matriculated to Rhodesia and England where she obtained several degrees while he was part of the Home Army and sent to Pawiak Prison, Auschwitz and Buchenwald before going to England and getting a PhD. Their collection is now housed in the

## FOTOPLASTIKON

Now, you may hear some people claiming this to be the only fotoplastikon in Europe. This is clearly a lie – there's one across the road in the Palace of Culture, for a start. Nonetheless, don't let that stop your visit. Hidden away in a darkened pre-war tenement a visit here really is a trip back in time. So what the devil is a fotoplastikon? Invented in Germany in the second half of the 19th century they're basically a 3D peep show (no, not the saucy kind) set inside a great big drum-like contraption. Presenting vivid images from across the world these groovy machines became an absolute sensation and at any onetime there were an estimated 250 in Europe. Warsaw apparently got its first in 1901, and the one on show here is thought to be from 1905. Although fotoplastikons were made obsolete by improved camera and film technology this one continued to open for the public, and during the war apparently served as a contact point for the Polish underground. Its role as a meeting point for academics and intellectuals continued well into communism, and today this family run operation allows visitors to glimpse Warsaw and other global landmarks in their pre-war glory. The show lasts 20 minutes and comes highly recommended. ► F-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 51, **M Centrum**, tel. (+48) 22 629 60 78, [www.fotoplastikonwarszawski.pl](http://www.fotoplastikonwarszawski.pl). Open 10:00-18:00, Mon, Tue closed for visiting due to museum lessons. Admission 4/2zł. Thu free.

historical Bank of Poland building and includes a unicorn sculpture by Salvador Dali, a painting of Renoir's son Pierre, an idyllic farm scene by Van Gogh, the head of John the Baptist by Rodin...the mind boggles at the list of noted artists housed here. The Bank's soaring rotunda is home to over 80 self-portraits, and the first floor houses works of a more religious nature. One of the most stunning is Wojciech Gerson's Baptism of Lithuania, a massive painting that represents Lithuania's baptism into Christianity. A lack of surly museum maids and a well-marked route make the JPll museum even more enjoyable. ► E-5, Pl. Bankowy 1, **M Ratusz Arsenal**, tel. (+48) 22 620 27 25, [www.mkjp2.pl](http://www.mkjp2.pl). Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Admission 15/10zł, group ticket 5zł.

## MUSEUM OF POLISH PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

Set in a neo-Renaissance villa designed by Italian-born Mary Lanci the Museum of the Polish People's Movement is an absolute must for museum diehards – just try to find any other English-speaker who's been here (though recently the museum has added some English brochures to help non-Polish visitors). As the title suggests, everything here is focused on Polish people/peasants, with the oldest exhibit being a 17th century manuscript approved by King Jan III Sobieski granting serfs a tax reduction. Most of these scrolls, documents and papers will be lost on the foreign visitor; making more sense are the printed materials, which include election posters from the interwar years, as well as decrees, ration cards and purchase vouchers supplied by the occupying Nazis during WWII. Times under communism are particularly well represented, and visitors will see a number of stirring Soviet chic posters encouraging hard work and high production. Very Socialist Paradise indeed.

Patriotism plays a large part in understanding this oddity, and art fans will be pleased to find a series of paintings depicting peasants in full battle, including of course Tadeusz Kościuszko doing his bit against the Russkies. There is a great little war-themed section which presents bayonets and armbands worn by peasant fighters during WWII. A new temporary exhibition entitled "To Buoy the Hearts: a painting exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of Henryk Sienkiewicz's death." ► Al. Wilanowska 204 (Mokotów), **M Wilanowska**, tel. (+48) 22 843 38 76, [www.mhpr.pl](http://www.mhpr.pl). Open 08:30 - 15:30. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission 4/2zł. Thu free.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM

Located inside a huge and decidedly bizarre inter-war building, Warsaw's National Museum has thankfully just reopened after a long renovation that has seen many changes including the renovation of the museum's main courtyard, a major rearrangement of the permanent galleries and an impressive upcoming schedule of temporary exhibits. Considering the new overhaul this museum is a must for anyone visiting the city. Dating from 1862 and operating under its current name since 1916, there's a huge array of permanent exhibitions and antiquities. Visitors will find a wealth of delightful 15th-



century Dutch and Flemish paintings as well as several Botticellis in the newly curated Gallery of Old Masters (opening on Dec. 22) which also includes several galleries of Polish art from the 16th century onwards, including some of the best work by the country's leading painters - Chelmoński and Matejko to name a few. There is also a large gallery of medieval art and a gallery dedicated to works from the 20th and 21st centuries, including exceptional works of Polish painters Witkacy, Władysław Strzemiński and Wilhelm Sasnal. The "Professor Kazimierz Michałowski Faras Gallery" is the newest permanent gallery to open and is the only exhibition in Europe featuring Medieval Nubian paintings from the Nile River Valley south of the First Cataract. Make sure to check their website. ► **H-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 3, [M] Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 629 30 93, [www.mnw.art.pl](http://www.mnw.art.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon, Last entrance 45 minutes before closing. Tues are free for the permanent gallery. Check their website for a full list of ticket prices. [TC] [L]**

## POLISH ARMY MUSEUM

The chronological history of the Polish army is presented in a series of gloomy rooms. Suits of armour, crossbows, muskets, medals and paintings pack this museum, though the scarcity of English-language explanations mean you'll need to hire an English-speaking guide to get the most out of the place (make sure to call in advance). The room at the end is dedicated to Poland's role in WWII, with specific emphasis on the Warsaw Uprising. There is a new permanent exhibition entitled: Tobruk 1941 - The 75th anniversary of the Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade's battle in the defence of the desert fortress. Curiously, the best part of the museum is actually free of charge (weather permitting i.e. closed in winter): the outdoor collection of 20th century weaponry includes an array of tanks, missiles, aircraft and rocket launchers. Note that visitors can see the Transport Aircraft AN26 or the Jak-40 for 3zł each. ► **H-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 3, [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 52 71, [www.muzeumwp.pl](http://www.muzeumwp.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Wed 10:00 - 17:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 15/8zł, Sat free. Polish and English audioguide 5zł. [GC]**



Polish Army Museum

## SASKI PALACE



One piece of lost Warsaw that is set to rise again is the Saski Palace, formerly located in the grounds of Saski Park (F-6). Originally the residence of the Morsztyn family the building was purchased by King Augustus II and substantially enlarged and used by both him and his successor, Augustus III (who, much like his predecessor August II, sired 12 children).

Back on track, when Augustus III passed away (shagged out most likely) the building fell into disuse before being rented out for accommodation. Between 1806-1816 the Prussians established Warsaw Lyceum on the premises, and conflicting evidence suggests that Chopin either lived there for a time, or that his father taught French in one of the outbuildings. Extensively remodelled in 1842 the Palace finally assumed its best known shape in 1925 when the Tomb of the Unknown soldier was added to the series of colonnades used to link the two wings together. Serving as the seat of the Polish General Staff after WWI it was here that the German Enigma Code was first cracked by local science boffins. WWII signalled the end of the Palace and it was flattened by retreating Nazi troops, with only the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier surviving the blasts.

But the story continues. In a rare act of foresight the city of Warsaw has decided to cover the 201 million złoty cost of rebuilding Saski Palace. Budimex Dromex have been awarded the tender to undertake the work and the façade, thanks to blueprints made available by the Central Military Archive, will look just like it did in 1939. It's not known what will occupy the space, with ideas ranging from a Museum of Polish History to an institute dedicated to the thoughts of Pope John Paul II. Completion was originally set for 2010, though so far building work has not entirely gone to plan. Although sappers failed to find any undetonated devices, builders have since come across over 10,000 rare archaeological finds including baroque sculptures, secret tunnels, ancient wells, German helmets and wine glasses bearing August III's monogram. The one problem being that no provision was made for discoveries of this scale, meaning that many of the treasures recovered have since corroded after being incorrectly stored. For the time being work appears to have stopped completely, with even the fences taken down – when it'll resume is anyone's guess, though we could be in for a bit of a wait (2018 Saxon seems to be the rallying cry). ► **F-6.**

## PALMIRY



### PALMIRY - THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

This highly recommended museum in the forest outside Warsaw significantly ups the standard for how a small exhibit can pack a huge punch. A little history: during World War II the forests of Palmiry and Kampinos became a refuge for those fleeing the destruction in Warsaw (many Home Army soldiers regrouped in the woods). It also became the site for 21 separate mass executions performed by German soldiers against 1,700 Poles and Jews, many of whom were academic and cultural figures. Inside this well-organized modern block visitors will see how the Poles used the forest for training and hiding weapons, and how the Germans turned their refuge into a killing field. Information boards clearly explain what happened in the forest (these are some of the best English translations we've seen) and displays include exhumed items like documents and photos, even sections of trees with ammunition still buried in their bark. A video re-enacts how German soldiers systematically marched civilians to their deaths, and the tour ends with an endless audio loop that reads the names of the victims. Outside visitors will see a giant cemetery of marked and unmarked crosses (the museum also describes the exhumation process that took place in the forest) dedicated to the victims. While the museum is mainly dedicated to what happened in the forests during World War II it also makes note of the fact that Poles have taken to these woods during the Kościuszko Uprising in 1794, the November Uprising in 1831 and the January Uprising in 1863. Getting to the museum from Warsaw is a little tricky. Catch the PKS bus from PKS Warszawa Dworzec Zachodni – in the direction of Zakroczym and get off at the Palmiry Łomna stop or grab the bus from the same stop in the direction of Nowiny and also get off at the Palmiry Łomna stop. ► **Palmiry**, tel. (+48) 22 720 81 14, [www.palmiry.muzeumwarszawy.pl](http://www.palmiry.muzeumwarszawy.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission free.

### UJAZDOWSKI CASTLE (MUSEUM OF MODERN ART/CSW)

Completed in a baroque style in 1730, Ujazdowski was gutted by fire during WWII. Though the original walls and foundations remained structurally sound the communist authorities decided to tear down the shell of the building with the intention of building a military theatre on the site. Common sense prevailed and the 1970s saw Ujazdowski rebuilt following its original style. Used as a military hospital in the years leading up to the war, it now has several large exhibition halls dedicated to showcasing a rotating collection of the very best contemporary art; find a wild mix of the good, the bad and the ugly, featuring the work of Poland's leading contemporary artists. Worthy and undoubtedly necessary, the gallery also houses a very good bookshop and reading room where you can freely peruse a huge collection of albums, magazines and books many of which are in English. There is also a fantastic cinema on site (Kino.Lab) plus a top notch restaurant and café. ► **I-10**, ul. Jazdów 2, **Politechnika**, tel. (+48) 22 628 12 71, [www.csw.art.pl](http://www.csw.art.pl). Open 12:00 - 19:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon, Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 12/6zł, Thu free, students up to 26 years of age 1zł.

## PLACES OF INTEREST

### GESTAPO HQ


Every bit as disturbing as Pawiak is the former Gestapo HQ, found on Al. Szucha 25. Built between 1927 and 1930, the building's original purpose was to serve as a centre for religious beliefs. In 1939 it came under control of the Nazi regime, and for the next five years became one of the most feared addresses in Poland operating, among other capacities, as a brutal interrogation centre. The imposing building, currently housing the Ministry of Education, was left untouched by the carnage of war and now also holds a small but sobering museum within its bowels. Cells, where prisoners were held prior to interrogation, have been left largely as they were. Known as 'trams', Poles would be sat on wooden benches facing the wall as they awaited their fate. Forbidden to eat or sleep, they were compelled to sit motionless in darkness, sometimes for days on end. Failure to do so would lead to almost certain death. The bullet marks scarring the walls tell their own harrowing story. Although the torture cells have long since been blocked off, the English language tape that the curator plays paints a vivid and repulsive picture. Prisoners were subjected to savage beatings, attacked with dogs and electrocuted. Those who didn't co-operate would, in some cases, be forced to watch their own families being tortured. The office where prisoners would have been 'checked in' also remains, complete with a faded portrait of Hitler and battered issues of *Wehrmacht* magazine lying around. Manacles, bullwhips and other sinister instruments can also be seen stacked on the bookshelf. ► **H-11**, Al. Szucha 25, **Politechnika**, tel. (+48) 22 629 49 19, [www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl/mauzoleum\\_szucha](http://www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl/mauzoleum_szucha). Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 10/5zł, Thu free.

## PGE NARODOWY (NATIONAL STADIUM)

Officially opened on January 29th, 2012, the PGE Narodowy (formerly known as the National Stadium) has room for 58,000 fans and 860 journalists, and has become one of the most popular places in PL - visited by 140,000 people each month. The construction itself, with its red and white covering, was built using hundreds of 45-metre support pillars driven into the ground to stabilise the 25 metres of war rubble the stadium finds itself atop. Priced at 1.2 billion PLN, history buffs will note that the Socialist era 'Relay' statue at the entrance has been preserved in a nod to the site's past heritage – it was here that the Stadion Dziesięciolecia (10th Anniversary Stadium) stood, built in the 1950s to mark the anniversary of the end of WWII. This was also the site where, on September 8, 1968, in front of 100,000 people, Ryszard Siwiec set himself alight in protest of the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.



Today Warsaw's National Stadium can be seen as a shining example of just how far Poland has come since those dark days and is an exceptional place to watch the national football side, or one of the mega-concerts frequently held here (Paul McCartney and Beyoncé have both packed the stadium). The excellent acoustics provide a deafening atmosphere and the state of the art pyrotechnics are eye-popping.

Guided tours of the stadium are run 7 days a week from 10:00 - 20:00 and the general tours set off every 15 minutes. A number of other tours are available, including the 'Exclusive Tour' which gives you access to the public spaces as well as players' only zones and VIP areas.

The stadium is approximately 3km from the area around the main train station and Palace of Culture straight along Al. Jerozolimskie and can be reached quickly and easily either by train, tram, bus or taxi. Take a train or tram from outside of the Marriott hotel/Main Railway station or take the local commuter train from the Warszawa Środmieście station located close to the main station (Warszawa Centralna). ► K-6, Al. Księcia J. Poniatowskiego 1,  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 22 295 90 00, [www.pgenarodowy.pl](http://www.pgenarodowy.pl).

## THE CITADEL (CYTADELA)

First off a tip. The entrance to the Citadel is on Wybrzeże Gdyńskie and is not that easy to find. Once you get there you discover a complex built in the wake of the 1830 November Insurrection, and commissioned by **Tsar Nicholas I** to serve as a fortress for the occupying Russian garrison - and as a political prison and execution ground. Housing as many as 16,000 troops, the main purpose of the citadel was to deter and quash any patriotic movement within the city. Of the 40,000 prisoners who have passed through its gates, familiar names include national hero **Józef Piłsudski**, communist agitator 'Red' **Rosa Luxembourg** and **Feliks Dzierżyński** - the monster who would progress to become head of the Russian secret police. As well as being a supreme example of 19th century fortress architecture, the 36 hectare site has several points of interest with the newly opened **Katyni**

**Museum** in the South wing leading the charge and the modern art **Galeria Brama Bielańska** in the North wing (open 10:00 - 17:00, Closed Sat, Sun). The labyrinth of tunnels and prison cells have been well preserved and contain numerous exhibits, including paintings, prison relics and firearms. A new permanent exhibition entitled *The Painting Gallery of Aleksander Sochaczewski* has just opened. Outside find a Nazi bunker dating from 1940, a symbolic cemetery, and The Gate of Execution. It's here on the nearby southern hillsides of the Citadel that Polish heroes like **Traugutt** were executed in front of a crowd of 30,000 in 1864. ► E-1, ul. Skazańców 25 (entrance from ul. Wybrzeże Gdyńskie),  Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 839 23 83, [www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl/xpawilon](http://www.muzeum-niepodleglosci.pl/xpawilon). Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission free. 

## THE EASTERN WALL

Reeling from near total annihilation the post-war years saw Warsaw emerge as Europe's biggest brickyard as it struggled to rebuild itself from the ashes. Initially the buzzword for architects in the region was Socialist Realism, a severe style following strict guidelines from a Soviet masterplan. The death of Stalin in 1953 changed all that and architects looked to the west for inspiration, a disastrous move that saw all manner of brutalist monstrosities rise from the ruins. The competition in Warsaw is fierce, but probably nastiest of the lot is the development dubbed 'the Eastern Wall' (Ściana Wschodnia), a collection of buildings and tower block running from Rondo Dmowskiego (F-8) to ul. Świętokrzyska (F-7). Architect Zbigniew Karpiński – the guy who also designed the bunker-like US Embassy on ul. Piękna – won the competition to rebuild the area and set about remodelling the centre of Warsaw with the zealous glee of a complete nutter. Construction kicked off in 1962 and was completed seven years later, the result being four department stores, the Rotunda bank building, a blockish office building behind it, a cinema, and even a nightclub. Towering over it all were three residential blocks situated on Świętokrzyska (85 metres), Zgoda (87 metres) and Chmielna (81 metres). Originally hailed a work of genius the Eastern Wall soon became a bit of a rusty elephant, crippled and blackened with age and neglect. The collapse of communism breathed new life into the complex – Poland's first McDonald's was opened at the Świętokrzyska end of the complex, while the office block behind the Rotunda temporarily held the title for having the largest billboard in the world. More recently steps have been taken to polish up the area with shining glass frontages added to the department stores, and granite floored pedestrian walkways and modern tubular lighting added to the section behind the Jerozolimskie end. But snoop behind the area around the Świętokrzyska end and you'll find a glorious blast to the past, with smashed pavements, useless bare-lit supermarkets and a couple of cafes selling ersatz coffee to hunched old men smoking cigarettes by the fistful. ► F-8.

## Old Town



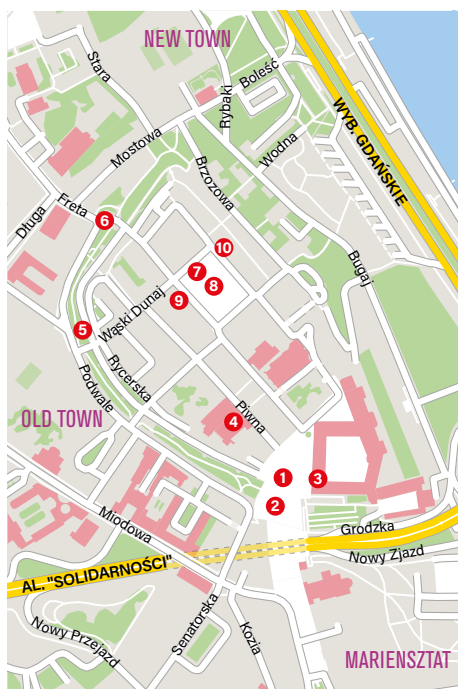
Warsaw Old Town all dressed up in white. | Photo by © Swellphotography - dollarphotoclub

A labyrinth of winding cobblestone streets, ornate tenement facades and picturesque plazas, it's easy to understand why the Old Town is Warsaw's top tourist area. A window into the 'once-upon-a-time' of Warsaw's golden days when it was one of the country's architectural pearls in addition to being its cosmopolitan capital, the Old Town was entirely rebuilt after the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, and is also symbolic of Warsaw's rise from the ruins of WWII and of Varsovians' pride in their city.

At the end of 1944, 85% of Warsaw's structures had been razed to the ground and half of its population had perished. The Old Town was hit with particular Nazi efficiency, and by the time the Red Army rolled across the river it was little more than a smoldering wasteland. To their credit the Capital Reconstruction Bureau chose to rebuild the historic centre, a painstaking process that would last until 1962. Using pre-war sketches, paintings and photographs the Old Town was carefully rebuilt, and though now only half a century old, Warsaw's historic quarter is an architectural miracle, and a stunning testament of the city's will to survive.

## WHAT TO SEE

Most visits to the Old Town begin on ❶ **Plac Zamkowy** (F-4) under ❷ **King Sigismund's Column**. There isn't a more popular meeting place in the city, and not a minute of the day when the steps to the statue aren't besieged





by dating couples, school kids and skateboarders. Erected in 1644 by Sigismund's son, Władysław IV, the 22-metre column was designed by Italian architects Augustyn Locci and Constantino Tencalla. Local legend asserts that Sigismund rattles his sabre whenever Warsaw is in trouble, an occurrence first reported during the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising and again during WWII. With the Warsaw Uprising in full swing the column took a direct hit from a tank shell and came crashing down. Amazingly Sigismund survived, losing only his sword, and he was returned to his new perch in 1949. The remains of the original column can be seen nearby at the side of the **3 Royal Castle** (p.91).

Moving north, head up **ul. Świętojańska** to have a gaze at the historically rich **St. John the Baptist Cathedral** (ul. Świętojańska 8, p.81) and the Renaissance-era **Jesuit Church** next door (ul. Świętojańska 10). If you're struggling to believe that at the end of 1944 all before you was just rubble, take a look at the black and white photographs illustrating the devastation on **ul. Zapiecek** (F-4); the Old Town's subsequent inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980 is also remembered in some cobblestone pavers here.

Resisting the draw of the market square for the time being, instead head down **ul. Piwna** (F-4) - aptly named 'Beer Street' after the 15th century breweries that once operated here - for a glimpse of **4 St. Martin's Church** at ul. Piwna 9/11. Flattened during the war, the only fragment to survive was a half-burned figure of Jesus. During the period of Martial Law, Solidarity supporters would convene here to worship and hold secret meetings. As with the rest of the Old Town, the real beauty of ul. Piwna lies in the details - check out the elaborate motifs and gargoyles that peer from the facades, including a flock of pigeons on the portal of number 6.

Stay on the left flank of the Old Town to check out the area around **ul. Piekarska** and **ul. Rycerska** (F-4), once home to a small square used for executions. Nicknamed 'Piekarka,' this is where witches and other ne'er do wells were burned at the stake, hanged, or beheaded. Marking the end of Piekarska, just outside the old city walls, check out the sword waving figure of **Jan Kiliński** - a legendary Polish



Photo by Stanisław Klosin

## ROYAL CASTLE



More a palace than a castle, this building is the pride of Warsaw, reconstructed from a pile of rubble at incredible cost between 1971 and 1984. Much of the furniture was donated by now deceased commie buddies such as the GDR and USSR, and much of the money for rebuilding came from generous donations from exiled Poles. Dating back to the 14th century, the castle has been the residence of Polish kings, then of the president and then the seat of parliament. The prescribed tour will take you through the Kings' apartments and chambers, heavily adorned with paintings of famous Polish moments. Maps on the wall reflect Poland's greatest days, when it stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The apartments of **Józef Poniatowski** have recently been opened to the public. The rooms are still a worthwhile part of the tour, if for no other reason than to see the Prince's surprisingly cerulean bedroom and grand collection of paintings.

Some of the halls are reputed to be intermittently haunted by a 'white lady.' According to legend her appearance signals imminent disaster. The nearby chapel boasts an urn containing the heart of Polish hero and freedom fighter **Tadeusz Kościuszko**. Next on the tour, the Houses of Parliament. Last but not least, the opulent Great Assembly Hall has so much gold stuck to the walls it's hard to resist the temptation to scratch some off - just a bit, they wouldn't notice. Behave or get accosted by vigilant wardens and enjoy the views across the river to the Praga district instead. For those interested in the Castle's reconstruction the basement exhibition "From Destruction to Reconstruction" details the building's resurrection after World War II rendered the place a pile of rubble. Note that this exhibition is free, so those not willing to spring for a ticket for the entire tour can still visit this section of the Castle. **The Museum will be closed during the first three weeks of January but will remain open on the weekends.** ► G-4, Pl. Zamkowy 4, **M**Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 355 51 70, [www.zamek-krolewski.pl](http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00; closed Mon. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 30/20zł, family ticket 15zł per person, group ticket 25/15zł. Sun free. Audioguides 17/12zł. **TC**

# Old Town



barbacain

© gekaskr, dollar photo club

patriot and hero of the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising. Tadeusz Kościuszko himself once lived nearby at Szeroki Dunaj 5 (F-4); this wide street was formerly home to Warsaw's fish market, while the narrow street running at a 90-degree angle, Wąski Dunaj, was the town's Jewish Quarter during the Middle Ages. Directly behind the wall, and onto **ul. Podwale** (F-4), you'll find one of Warsaw's most poignant landmarks - **5 The Little Insurgent Monument**, which honours the memory of the child soldiers who fought and died during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Follow Podwale as it curves northwards, and you'll eventually arrive at the **6 Barbican** (F-4). Crowning the set of defensive walls which once protected the city, this fearsome rotund structure dates from 1548. Today it serves as a bridge between the Old and New Town, and is also the hangout of choice for teenage drinkers and 'artists' selling their wares.

At this point you'll find your nose pointing straight down **ul. Nowomiejska** (F-4), which will finally lead you to the beautiful **7 Old Town Square** (Rynek). Measuring 90 by 73 metres, this square is Warsaw's defining highlight, lined with richly-decorated burgher houses. During the 15th century the Old Town Square was home to Warsaw's Town Hall, though this was pulled down in 1817 and never replaced. Today you'll find a couple of water pumps dating from the 19th century, as well as Warsaw's best loved monument - **8 Syrenka**. Cast in 1855 this mermaid's form graces every bus, tram and coat of arms you'll find in the capital. While the Old Town Square presents no shortage of ways to part tourists from their cash, one place that is worth popping into is **9 U Fukiera** at Rynek 27. The culinary tradition here dates from 1810 when the Fukier family turned this place into Warsaw's top winery, and their guest list reads as something of a Who's Who of stage and screen. Nearby is the **10 Warsaw Museum** (Rynek Starego Miasta 28-42).

Leaving the square from the opposite corner from the Historical Museum, make a left down **ul. Celna** (F-4) to reach a grassy bank that offers sweeping views of the River Wisła. Known as **Gnojna Góra** (Compost Hill, G-4), this small knoll once served as the town rubbish dump, and at one stage was also renowned for its healing properties

- people with obscene amounts of money would actually come here to be buried up to their necks in rubbish in a supposed cure for syphilis (doesn't work, we've tried).

Head back towards the Old Town by walking towards **ul. Dawna** (G-4), whose trademark blue archway is one of the most picturesque sights in the city. Finally, conclude your epic walking tour by swerving onto **ul. Kanonia** (G-4). Once a graveyard, this little square features a cracked cathedral bell (that promises good luck if you touch the top and circle it) as well as one of the world's most narrow houses at number 20/22. Note the covered walkway nearby, which links the Cathedral to the Royal Castle. This was built after a failed assassination attempt on Sigismund III. The King escaped unharmed, but the hapless hitman, Michał Piekarski, found himself skinned alive, stretched by four horses and then chopped into pieces with an axe!

You yourself are now within horse-stretching distance of your starting point by the Royal Castle and Sigismund's Column. Point your fatigued figure in the direction of **Krakowskie Przedmieście** (G-5) and prepare yourself to take the path of Kings along **The Royal Route**. Cue fanfare!

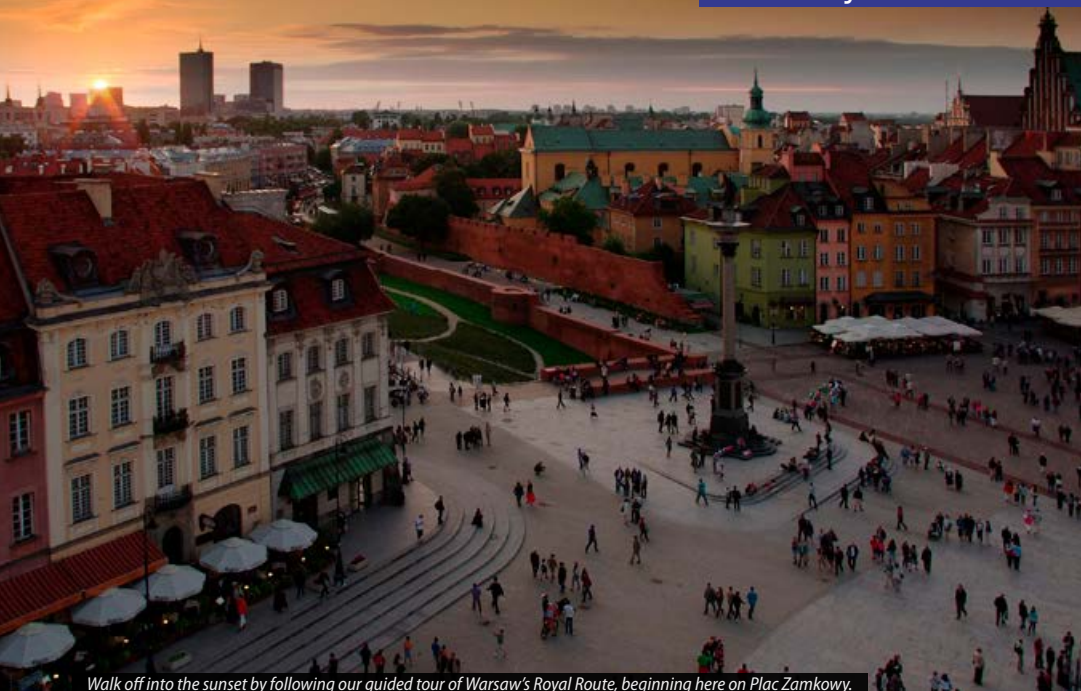
## THE LITTLE INSURGENT MONUMENT

The communist authorities continually thwarted efforts to commemorate the Uprising, though by the early 80s cracks in their resolve were beginning to show. On October 1, 1983, the most poignant of all Uprising monuments was unveiled by the walls of the Barbakan. Designed by Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz and funded by collections undertaken by scouts, the bronze installation shows the figure of a boy soldier clutching a Sten gun and weighed down by an adult-sized helmet. Commemorating the children who served as messengers and frontline troops, the figure is inspired by the story of 13 year old corporal Antek, himself killed in action close to the scene on August 8, 1944. ► **F-4, ul. Podwale, M Ratusz Arsenał**.



King Sigismund's Column

Photo by Stanisław Klosin



Walk off into the sunset by following our guided tour of Warsaw's Royal Route, beginning here on Plac Zamkowy.

Warsaw's famed 'Royal Route' links the city's three Royal residences, starting from the Royal Castle on Plac Zamkowy, via Łazienki Park's Palace on the Island, en route to Wilanów Palace in the district of the same name. Covering 11km in length, this main artery through the city takes in a great range of Warsaw's historic buildings, parks, churches and monuments, making a trek down the 'path of the Kings' a 'must-do' part of any visit to the city. The heart of the route, along Krakowskie Przedmieście and Nowy Świat, will also lead you past, or more likely into, a grand selection of hostleries, restaurants and shops. Granted, a few of the further out parts of the route may not be anything to write home about, but it really is worth making the effort in order to visit the beautiful Wilanów Palace, gardens and parkland. We let you know what not to miss in our walking tour of the most travelled stretch between Plac Zamkowy and Plac Trzech Krzyży below.

## KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE

Krakowskie Przedmieście is easily one of Poland's most prestigious and well-known streets. It stretches from the **Royal Castle** (Pl. Zamkowy 4, G-4) in the **Old Town** until it blends into ul. Nowy Świat. With the Royal Castle and Old Town covered extensively elsewhere in the guide (see Sightseeing), we begin our stroll from the sabre-rattling **King Sigismund's Column** just outside the castle. This popular meeting point sees its steps visited by buskers, tourists and white-gowned brides in search of memorable snaps. From this point head to **St. Anne's Church** (ul.

Krakowskie Przedmieście 68, F-4), a neo-classical effort that survived the war but came within a whisker of collapse when work on the W-Z street tunnel in 1949 caused several landslides; it took a team of 400 workers two weeks to shore the foundations and stabilise the soil, but the real hero of the hour was Romuald Cebertowicz - a professor who invented a way of solidifying the soil via the use of electrical currents. The interior of St. Anne's is fine, but the real reason for visiting is the viewing platform, which offers impressive views of the Old Town and a distant shot of the red and white National Stadium.


A short stroll will take you to the **Adam Mickiewicz** monument (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 5, G-5). This statue was erected in 1898 - the centenary of the birth of Poland's best-loved bard. Unveiled at a time of Imperial Russian repression the very creation of his likeness was regarded as something of a bombshell, and over 12,000 patriotic Poles turned up to cheer the ribbon cutting. Standing just behind Mr. Mickiewicz is a 1784 pink building recognisable for having a chunk missing from its facade, and the 17th century **Carmelite Church** (Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and of St. Joseph, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 52/54, F-4) next door is one of the best examples of the classical style to be found in Poland.

Stop for photos by the stone lions and stern looking guards outside the **Presidential Palace** (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 46/48, G-5). Construction on the palace began in 1643 at the behest of Stanisław Koniecpolski, although he died before it was completed. It passed into the hands of various aristocratic families and in the 18th

## PRESIDENTIAL PALACE



Of all the palaces, institutions, monuments and churches that line Krakowskie Przedmieście, none is more important than the Presidential Palace at number 46/48 – that mysterious fenced-off building guarded by stone lions and stern-looking soldiers. Construction began in 1643 at the behest of Stanisław Koniecpolski, though was only completed after his death. It passed into the hands of various aristocratic families and in the 18th century became famed for its banquets – the most extravagant being held to commemorate the coronation of Stanisław II August Poniatowski in 1789; over 2 million złoty was spent entertaining the 4,000 guests.

Poniatowski was to prove one of the nation's finest monarchs and the Constitution of May 3, 1791, signed on these very grounds, is recognised as Europe's first – and only the second in the world. A statue of Poniatowski's brother, himself a military hero, was added in 1965. After 1818 the Palace became the seat of the Viceroy of the Polish Kingdom, and its halls entertained many a visiting Tsar. In 1852 calamity struck, however, and the Palace was burned to the ground. Extensively remodelled throughout the course of its history one of its biggest revamps came at the beginning of the 20th century when one wing was demolished to make way for the Hotel Bristol. When Poland regained its independence in 1918 the Palace was commandeered to serve as home of the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers. Amazingly it survived both the 1939 Siege of Warsaw and the Warsaw Uprising five years later, though that did little to stop the authorities from giving it a further facelift. It saw more momentous events in 1955 when the Warsaw Pact – the Soviet Union's answer to NATO – was ratified within its walls. Since 1994 it has served as the official home of the Polish president, which is why you'll find streams of limos heading in and out, and square-jawed soldiers pointing their weapons at anyone who strays too close. The new Polish President Andrzej Duda, elected in spring 2015, currently resides in the Palace with his family. ► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 46/48,  Nowy Świat-Universytet.

century it became the famed venue for lavish society banquets – none being more extravagant than the party held to celebrate the coronation of **Stanisław II August Poniatowski** in 1789, when the astounding sum of over two million złoty was spent entertaining 4,000 guests. Some will say it was money well spent; Poniatowski proved to be one of Poland's finest monarchs and the constitution of May 3, 1791, signed on these very grounds, is recognised as Europe's first. When Poland regained independence in 1918 the reconstructed building was commandeered to serve as home to the Polish Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers. It saw more momentous events in 1955, this time when the Warsaw Pact – the Soviet Union's answer to NATO – was ratified within its walls. In 1989 round table talks between the communists and the opposition were held here, paving the way for political freedom, and in 1994 it was appointed as the official home of the Polish President and is where current President Andrzej Duda and his family presently reside.

The Prez obviously needs classy neighbours, so next door you'll find the elegant and recently overhauled **Bristol Hotel** (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, G-5). A brass plaque boasts of its many famous guests: Picasso, Nixon and Dietrich, to name but a few. Across the street, the current building of the Ministry of Culture and Art (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 15) is also home to its own historical factoid – it was here that Napoleon met his paramour Marie Walewska at a ball held in his honour.

Why all the young, fresh faced kids? Well, you're in **Warsaw University**-land. The Uni's main campus lies behind the grand gateway at ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28 (G-6). Dating from the 17th century the main building, known as 'Villa Regia,' was remodelled and renovated several times before Warsaw U was established here in 1819. The uni had a tough time under Russian rule; closed in retaliation for the 1830-31 Uprising the university continued to operate underground, though by 1859 the Tsar calmed down enough to rubber stamp the creation of a School of Medicine. Today, with some 57,000 students on the roll call, the university stands out as the largest and arguably best in Poland. Notable alumni include former Israeli premier Yitzhak Shamir, writer Witold Gombrowicz, award-winning hack Ryszard Kapuściński, the late president Lech Kaczyński and poet Julian Tuwim.



ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 15.

Photo by Stanisław Kłosin





Plac Zamkowy

Photo by Jacek Kadaj

Head across the street to visit the **Church of the Holy Cross** (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 3, G-6). This is the famed final resting place of Fryderyk Chopin's heart, which was sealed in an urn at his own request and placed behind a tablet featuring his likeness, becoming a place of pilgrimage for his legions of fans. Finish your Krakowskie Przedmieście wander with a visit to the **Nicolaus Copernicus monument**, located opposite the church, appropriately seated in front of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ul. Nowy Świat 72, G-6). The monument was unveiled in 1830 and has seen plenty of action, particularly during WWII when the Nazis added a bronze plaque suggesting the astronomer was actually German. In 1942 a brave boy scout removed the plaque, causing the Nazis to remove the monument and bomb several others as retribution. Fortunately Copernicus was recovered and restored following the war. The controversial plaque is in the Warsaw Museum (Rynek Starego Miasta 28-42, F-4), which is undergoing renovations until further notice. ► G-4, **Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**.

## NOWY ŚWIAT

Nip across the ul. Świętokrzyska intersection and Krakowskie Przedmieście suddenly becomes the New World! The story of ul. Nowy Świat (New World Street) dates back to medieval times when it was traversed by Kings on their way between Warsaw and Kraków, with the first settlements appearing in the area during the 17th century. Levelled during WWII, the street found itself rebuilt in rather uniform neo-classical style, as returning it to its predominantly Art Nouveau pre-war style was simply unfeasible. Nowy Świat, along with its little off-shoot streets, has long been seen as one of THE places to be seen and is home to numerous shops, bars and eateries. Expect a myriad of modern and traditional restaurants and coffee shops, including the popular **Bierhalle** microbrewery which makes an ideal pitstop at ul. Nowy Świat 64 (G-7), before shoving off to snap a pic of the former home of cult writer and Anglophile **Joseph Conrad** at number 45. If it's too early in the day for a hefty German style beer, drop into the renowned **Café Blikle** (ul. Nowy Świat 33, G-7), famous for once serving doughnuts to a young and sweet-toothed Charles de Gaulle. Just across the street you will find super trendy **ul. Foksal** (G-7) for more gastronomic and drinking opportunities; follow it to its end to see **Zamoyksi Palace** (ul. Foksal 1/2/4), a neo-renaissance pearl designed by Marconi and the scene of a botched assassination attempt on the Russian governor

in 1863. Infuriated Cossack troops reacted by launching a piano once tickled by Chopin out the window, though nowadays the drama is limited to dancing in the basement club or dining on the elegant ground floor.

Back onto Nowy Świat you should now be in sight of our city's famous plastic **Palm Tree** which stands on the de Gaulle roundabout at the intersection of Al. Jerozolimskie and Nowy Świat. Created by artist Joanna Rajkowska, the palm links the fauna of the city of Jerusalem with its namesake avenue 'Jerozolimskie' in Warsaw. Before reaching the palm tree, however, one must stop off at an oasis, and there is no place better than the legendary rat-like maze of **Pawilony** (The Pavilions) located behind the gates at number 22. Klaps (ul. Nowy Świat 22/28, Pavilion 12A, G-8) is a can't-miss experience if you like your décor to include a wall of plastic boobs and beer taps crowned with vibrators! Before crossing the busy roundabout keep your eyes peeled for a poignant **Socialist Realist mural** of a girl holding a pistol - one of the earliest tributes to the Warsaw Uprising. Once safely across de Gaulle roundabout, you will be greeted by a monument to the great General himself. Behind him stands the hulking edifice of the **former Communist HQ** at Nowy Świat 6 (H-8). Completed in 1948, rumours that it was secretly connected by a tunnel to the Palace of Culture appear unsubstantiated, but you have to love the irony that it briefly served as home to the stock exchange; today the building hosts numerous offices, a Ferrari dealership and **Cuda na Kiju** - one of Warsaw's best real ale multi-tap bars. Scurry along this fairly uninspiring stretch of Nowy Świat to Pl. Trzech Krzyży (H-8), home to the beautiful 19th century classical style **St. Alexander's Church** (ul. Książęca 21, H-8). The surrounding area is home to some of Warsaw's top boutiques, including the likes of Burberry, Zegna and Escada. ► H-8, **Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**.

## FURTHER ON

From Plac Trzech Krzyży (H-8), Warsaw's 'royal route' continues down the Embassy-land of Aleje Ujazdowskie past the Ujazdowskie and Łazienki Parks (I-11), down ul. Belwederska (I-13), ul. Sobieskiego (J-15) and Aleja Wilanowska to ultimately end at Wilanów Palace - the 17th century private residence of King Jan III Sobieski. While a walking tour of the remaining 10km isn't realistic, or especially rewarding, **Łazienki** and **Wilanów** are both required visits for getting a broader sense of Warsaw's history and former glory as the grand capital of a vast and wealthy commonwealth stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. We detail both destinations extensively further on in our Sightseeing section, and though both could occupy the better part of a day on their own, you can also easily continue your tour from the bus stop at the southern end of Pl. Trzy Krzyży. **To get to Łazienki Park, simply hop on bus numbers 116, 166 or 180 and get off two stops later at 'Łazienki Królewskie.'** For Wilanów, take bus 116, 180 or E-2 and get off at 'Wilanów' 25mins later.



Photo by Stanisław Klosin

Anyone who still thinks that Warsaw is a city of concrete and cement has clearly never been to the city's lung, the incomparable Łazienki Park. Quite simply, this glorious, 17th century park, spread over 74 hectares, is one of the jewels in Poland's crown, which might explain why half of Warsaw chooses to spend its summer Sundays here. Fear not though, for so big is Łazienki that it never gives the impression of being crowded, and even on the busiest of days you will always be able to find a quiet, shady corner somewhere.

## ŁAZIENKI PARK

The name Łazienki means *baths* and is derived from the park's centrepiece and best-known attraction, the Palace on the Island. The palace was originally built in the 17th century as a private bathhouse for Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, owner of the adjacent Ujazdów Castle and much of the surrounding land (and much of Poland, come to mention it). The bathhouse was bought by the last king of Poland, Stanisław August Poniatowski, in 1772 and converted into a private residence (thus taking the name *Palace on the Island*). It was at this time that the grounds were formally laid out as a private garden, most of the landscaping being carried out to the designs of Karol Ludwigo Agricola and Karol Schultz. Today dotted with many palaces (big and small), summer houses, pavilions, mansions, cafes, restaurants, lakes and theatres, Łazienki offers much to see and to make the best of it you should plan to spend a full day here.

One word of warning however before you pack a picnic and the cricket set: Łazienki, for all its charms, is further evidence of the fact that many Central Europeans have never quite grasped the idea of what parks are actually for.

With superbly kept grass at every turn, perfect for picnics, pick up games of cricket, softball, football or whatever else it is people get up to in parks in the western world, Łazienki takes a very stern 'look but don't touch' attitude when it comes to its lawns. If you don't believe us, try sitting on a Łazienki lawn and see what happens. That said, the park has recently added two zones where you're allowed to have a picnic (near the Belvedere Restaurant and at the Southern end of the park, weather permitting). Progress! ► I-11, ul. Agrykoli 1, [M] Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 506 00 28, [www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl](http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl). Open from dawn till dusk.



## CHOPIN MONUMENT & TEMPLE OF SIBYL

On entering the park proper, make your first port of call the **Chopin Monument**, sculpted by Witold Szymanowski and unveiled in 1926. It depicts Chopin sitting right here in Łazienki, next to a willow tree. The original sculpture was destroyed during WWII, and the one we admire today went up in 1958. Almost hidden in the trees a few metres from Chopin is the astonishing **Temple of the Sibyl** (closed to the public), an 1820s replica Greek Temple built entirely of wood. Look out too for a gaggle of other little buildings here such as the **Hermitage**, the **Egyptian Temple** and the **Water Tower**. None are currently open to the public. ► H-11, [M] Politechnika, [www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl](http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl).

## MUSEUM OF HUNTING & HORSEMANSHIP

North of the Palace on the Island, the Museum of Hunting & Horsemanship is worth a quick visit. ► J-11, ul. Szwoleżerów 9, [M] Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 522 66 30, [www.muzeum.warszawa.pl](http://www.muzeum.warszawa.pl). Open 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 3-8/2-5zł. Thu free. [cc]

## MYŚLEWICKI PALACE

When in Łazienki Park, make sure you have time for a guided tour of the magnificent, semi-circular and recently restored Myślewicki Palace. The tour lasts about 20 minutes. The palace was the official residence of the king's nephew, Józef Poniatowski, and is very much 'as was' - complete with original murals, furniture and art. ► J-11, ul. Agrykoli 1,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 506 00 28, [www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl](http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Mon 11:00 - 16:00. Admission 10/5zł. Thu free. Guided tours in English 100zł per group. Children and students up to 26 years of age pay just 1zł. 

## PALACE ON THE ISLAND



The Palace on the Island is Łazienki's raison d'être. The palace - completed in 1683 to designs by Tylman Gamerski - was originally a bathhouse, converted into a residence in the late 1700s (after being bought by Stanisław August Poniatowski). The palace is built on an artificial island that divides the lake into two parts, and is connected to the surrounding park by two colonnaded bridges. The façades are unified by giant Corinthian pilasters that link its two floors and are crowned by a balustrade that bears statues of mythological figures. The northern façade is relieved by a striking central portico, while the southern façade's deep central recess lies behind a screen of Corinthian columns. Today a museum, almost all of the palace can be visited including the main reception room, Solomon's Hall, decorated in the most extravagant of Baroque styles with a series of paintings depicting the History of Solomon. They were executed for King Stanisław Augustus in 1791-93 by Marcello Bacciarelli and depicted the monarch himself as the biblical king. Many of the king's personal rooms are also open to the public, set in their original context. To get the best out of the palace we recommend taking one of the excellent guided tours (call ahead to book such a tour). ► I-11, ul. Agrykoli 1,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 506 00 28, [www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl](http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Mon 11:00 - 16:00. Admission 25/18zł and comes with headphones. Thu free. Guides 120zł per group up to 25 people. Children and students up to 26 years of age pay 1zł. 



Photo by Paweł Czarnecki

## JAN III SOBIESKI



Jan Sobieski was born in Olesko near Lwów (now Ukrainian Lviv) in 1629. His father was a Polish-Lithuanian nobleman who ensured young Jan and his

brother received a first class education and they both went onto study at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow before Jan travelled abroad. He studied military history and tactics including significantly as it would turn out in Turkey (as an envoy of King Jan II Casimir) where he learned the Tartar language in the 1650s. Sobieski also spoke French, German and Italian and during this time met major European political figures including Louis II de Bourbon, William of Orange and Charles II, where it is clear that he learnt the value of diplomacy as well as military might.

Jan Sobieski would have a lifelong love of France thanks in part to his French wife Marie (or Marysienka as he fondly named her) whom he married in 1665 and fathered 14 children with (of whom 8 survived).

Having returned to Poland Sobieski went on to serve with distinction in the Battle of Warsaw (1656), where he led a Tartar cavalry regiment, and the Polish Swedish wars (1655-1660) among others. In 1666 he sided with the king Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki during the Lubomirski rebellion and added another major victory to his list by defeating the Turks at the Battle of Chocim in 1673. It was this victory allied to his reputation as a strong leader, astute military tactician and a canny political knack that would result in him being elected as Polish King the following year, in 1674.

Sobieski inherited a nation virtually penniless from 50 years of continuous war and set about stabilising the country's borders through treaties and strategic battles. It is for this combination of wisdom and bravery that he is well remembered today.

Sobieski's greatest moment, however, was to come in 1683. Having marched through most of the Balkans a vast Turkish army was massed on the outskirts of Vienna threatening to overwhelm the Christian world. Led by King Jan III Sobieski a joint Polish/German/Austrian army scored a magnificent victory in a daylong battle on 12 September 1683 vanquishing the Turks. Sobieski led a charge of Polish hussars breaking the opposition lines and sending the Turks into disarray. Sobieski entered the abandoned tent of the Turkish commander Kara Mustapha in the early evening signifying victory and parts of that tent are today on display within Wilanow Palace. The Turks were to name Sobieski 'The Lion of Lechistan' (Lechistan being an ancient name of Poland) while Danzig astronomer Johannes Hevelius would name a newly discovered constellation Scutum Sobiescianum (Sobieski's Shield) after him, quite an accolade for a still living, non-astronomer as was Sobieski.





© sovach, dollarphotoclub

## UJAZDOWSKI CASTLE (MUSEUM OF MODERN ART/CSW)

A castle of some description has been found on this site since the time of the Masovian Dukes (1300s), but the Ujazdowski Castle we see today was completed in a Baroque style in 1730 for Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski (it was his bathhouse that later became the Palace on the Island and gave Łazienki park its name). Ujazdowski survived two centuries before being gutted by fire during WWII, and was indeed lucky to escape total destruction: the retreating Nazis actually tried to blow it to pieces, as they did a number of Łazienki's finest buildings. But - as is so often the case - what the Nazis couldn't do the communists could, and though the original walls and foundations remained structurally sound in the 1950s Poland's communist authorities decided to tear down the shell of the building and place a military theatre on the site. Common sense prevailed however, and the 1970s saw Ujazdowski rebuilt to its original plans. It today plays host to several large exhibition halls dedicated to showcasing rotating exhibitions of the very best contemporary art inside; find a wild mix of the good, the bad and the ugly,



Photo by Paweł Czarnecki

featuring the work of Poland's leading contemporary artists here. Worthy and undoubtedly necessary, the gallery also houses a very good bookshop and reading room where you can freely peruse a huge collection of albums, magazines and books many of which are in English. There is also a fantastic cinema on site (Kino.Lab) plus a top notch restaurant and café. ► I-10, ul. Jazdów 2, Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 628 12 71, [www.csw.art.pl](http://www.csw.art.pl). Open 12:00 - 19:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon, Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 12/6zł, Thu free, students up to 26 years of age 1zł.



Wistula CC BY-SA 3.0

## GETTING TO ŁAZIENKI

Any number of buses stop in front of the park's three main entrances on Al. Ujazdowskie, including numbers 116, 166 and 180. From the city centre, however, perhaps the easiest way of reaching Łazienki is to take a tram from 'Centrum' to 'Pl. Unii Lubelskiej', and walk 100 metres along ul. Bagatela to the park's southern entrance, in front of the Belvedere Palace. Orientation around the park is relatively easy given the prominent placement of maps and signs - in Polish and English - in key locations. There is also a very good Łazienki complex map (again, in Polish and English) which can be picked up for free from the Palace on the Island or any of the museums in the park. If you enter the park via any of the entrances on Al. Ujazdowskie, chances are you will end up, willingly or not, via some surprisingly hilly paths set with tall trees, at the vast artificial lake in the park's centre, straddled by the magnificent Palace on the Island. In doing so however, you risk missing out on a few treasures, so try to circumnavigate the park instead.

While you can buy tickets for each Łazienki attraction individually, you can also purchase a one-day ticket or three-day combined ticket which offers single-access to a chunk of the attractions (Ujazdowski Castle, The Museum of Hunting & Horsemanship and the Botanical Garden are not among them). A one-day ticket is 40/25zł and three-day tickets are 50/30zł. ► H-11, ul. Agrykoli 1.





© The Wilanów Palace Museum, Photo: Magdalena Kulpa

It is very easy to visit Warsaw and imagine its history stretches no further back than the post-war communist era and before that to WWII, when the city was effectively wiped from the map of Europe. But that would be to only understand a small part of this city's history. The nation's capital has been in Warsaw since the late 16th century and at one time was the centre of the burgeoning Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a union which lasted over 200 years and whose territory at once stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea (incorporating much of modern day Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic States). With so much of pre-war Warsaw destroyed there are few places to experience what this must have been like more than at Wilanów's palace and gardens.

The **'Polish Versailles'** is just one of the many fitting monikers applied to this splendid late 17th-century palace which can be found in the Warsaw district of Wilanów, 10 kilometres south of the city centre. Essential visiting for all who come to soak up the capital's lavish culture and wish to understand a little more about ancient Poland, Wilanów is more than just a palace – it represents an era from which much has been lost. The palace, park and surrounding ensemble of buildings represent the height of **Polish Baroque** and this is one of Poland's greatest national treasures. The sprawling **45-hectare** setting is also full of things to do, from visiting the superb Poster Museum next door to renting a rowboat on the palace's lake. If the weather's good and you've got time to spare, it's easy to spend an entire and thoroughly rewarding day here.

## HISTORY

Wilanów gets its name from the Warsaw borough in which Wilanów Palace is located. First mentioned in the 13th century as Milanów, the then tiny village changed hands several times before being bought in the 17th century by the family of Stanisław Leszczyński. Leszczyński began building a palace here, but the project was halted by the Deluge and the subsequent capture and plundering of the region by the Swedes. In 1676 the abandoned Milanów was bought by King Jan III Sobieski looking for a country retreat away from Warsaw, and he ordered a new palace to be built on the site. Originally called 'Villa Nova' (New Village), the name was soon polonised to the one it's known by today. A brick manor house was built in 1680, expanding in two stages into a palace during the years 1681-1696 under the supervision of Agostino Locci to his own design. It is within the central part of the palace where you will see the living quarters of King Jan III Sobieski and his French queen consort, Marie (or Marysieńka as she was affectionately called by Sobieski and still is by Poles today), in what is the original part of the palace.

After Jan III Sobieski's death in 1696, his widow returned to France and the palace, through their sons, became the property of Elżbieta Sieniawska. She continued to develop the palace, most notably the two wings which were built in the years 1720-1729. Sieniawska, like many of the subsequent owners, honoured Sobieski by conserving much of the palace in memory of the victorious king. It was

# Wilanów

to become a royal residence again in the early 1730s during the reign of August II the Strong. Over the next two hundred years the palace became the property of a succession of the most important Polish families including the Czartoryskis, Lubomirskis, Potockis and Branickis, and each left their mark as they expanded and developed the property. One of its most enlightened residents was Stanisław Kostka Potocki who in the early 19th century, at a time when Poland as a country ceased to exist because of the Russian/Prussian/Austrian partition, made his collection of art and access to the royal apartments of King Jan III Sobieski available to the public. Keep an eye out for the words 'Cunctis patet ingressus' on the palace floor signifying that the palace and its collection were 'open to all'.

The palace avoided the fate of the city of Warsaw and survived the war virtually intact, though its collections were seriously looted. Confiscated by Poland's post-war Communist government, Wilanów became part of the National Museum in Warsaw and was painstakingly renovated during the 1950s and early 1960s, opening its doors to the public again in 1962. Today it is the subject of a 32 million złoty revitalisation program which is overseeing conservation work in the royal apartments and archaeological research of the area. The gardens have also recently been restored to the splendour they enjoyed during Jan III Sobieski's time.

## WHAT TO SEE

### POSTER MUSEUM

Housed inside the Wilanów Palace's former indoor riding area, the Poster Museum features two large halls full of wonderful posters from all over the world. At over 55,000 pieces, this is reportedly the largest poster collection to be found anywhere. The museum focuses on the artistic merits of the posters rather than their documentary value and plays host to a cycle of temporary events and exhibitions. As a contrast to the historic palace and collection of paintings next door, this makes for interesting additional place to visit while in Wilanów. ► **ul. S. K. Potockiego 10/16, tel. (+48) 22 842 48 48, [www.postermuseum.pl](http://www.postermuseum.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Mon 12:00 - 16:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 11/8zł, Mon free.**



Photo by W. Holnicki

## GETTING TO WILANÓW

The Palace and Gardens at Wilanów can be reached best of all by bus or taxi directly from the city centre. The city's metro system does run to a stop called 'Wilanowska' but this is about 5km from the palace and will involve taking a bus from outside of the station. All buses stop directly outside the palace gates.

### BY BUS

#### From the Old Town/Plac Zamkowy (F-4):

Take buses 116 or 180; journey takes about 35 minutes.

#### From Pl. Trzech Krzyży (H-8):

Take buses 116, 180 or E-2; journey takes about 25 minutes. The bus stops can be found at the southern end of the square on Al. Ujazdowski.

#### From the centre (F-8):

Take bus 519 from outside the Cepelia store on ul. Marszałkowska.

#### From Warszawa Centralna train station:

Take bus 519 or 700 from the southbound stop on ul. Chałubińskiego (E-8); journey takes about 30 minutes.

### BY TAXI

Costing 45-60zł with a recommended company such as Sawa Taxi (tel. 22 644 44 44), a taxi ride to Wilanów is something of a false economy, taking more or less the same time as the bus to get there. If you prefer the comfort and privacy of your own car then also look for ELE taxis parked around the city, including outside the main train station (E-8). ► **ul. S.K. Potockiego 10/16.**

### ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

A church has stood on this exact site since the 14th century, when the wooden church of St. Leonard was built here. This was replaced by a Gothic wooden construction and graveyard in the 16th century and it wasn't replaced with a brick one until well after the time of Jan III Sobieski in 1772. The new church was called St. Anne's and was founded by Prince August Adam Czartoryski to a design by Jan Kotelnicki. Czartoryski's grand-daughter, Aleksandra Lubomirska Potocka, decorated the church with art in the period 1799-1831, the most precious of which is the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary in the main altar.

Between 1857 and 1870, Aleksandra's son August and his wife extended the church to a design by Henri Marconi. The church received a Neo-Renaissance look and the marvellous dome was added. In the gardens surrounding the church building you will find terracotta shrines marking the fourteen Stations of the Cross, while within the church, in the crypt under the chapel, are the tombs of the Potocki family.

The church suffered damage during both world wars and was even used as an internment camp by the Nazis, who also looted and damaged it. The church bells dating from 1723 and 1777 survived thanks to the bravery of the local people who hid them; today they are housed in the newly built Third Millennium Tower.

The church is a particularly beautiful one to visit today thanks in no small part to the work of the parish priest Bogusław Bijak, and it is protected as part of a complex of parks, buildings and original roads running into the centre of the city as a national historic memorial. ► **ul. Kolegiacka 1, tel. (+48) 22 842 18 01, [www.parafiiawilanow.pl](http://www.parafiiawilanow.pl). Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sun 14:00 - 18:00, No visiting during mass please.**

## WILANÓW PARK & GARDENS

The 45 hectares that make up Wilanów Park grew over the centuries according to the particular fancies of its owners. The park's present form dates from the extensive and mostly faithful renovations made during the 1950s, overseen by the architect and historian Professor Gerard Ciolek (1909-1966). Made up of a series of individual gardens, the park includes a two-level Baroque garden, a Neo-Renaissance rose garden, a classical English landscaped park and the so called English-Chinese landscape park. The park near the Orangery, East, North and Rose gardens and their associated architecture were recently the subject of a major revitalisation program and during work on the Baroque garden a series of archaeological digs discovered several artefacts, including ceramics dating from the 12th century. Now the gardens have been restored to their appearance during the time of King Jan III Sobieski. From October 20 starts the "Królewski Ogród Światła" (Royal Garden of Lights) outdoor light exhibition. The courtyard and gardens will be filled with millions of lights which will form various baroque patterns and designs. It will be displayed from 16:00 until 21:00, last entrance 20:30; separate ticket required (10/5zł). ► **ul. S.K. Potockiego 10/16. Park open 09:00 - 16:00. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing. Admission 5/3zł, Thu free. Note that an obligatory 0zł ticket is still required on Thursdays. Really. TC**



Photo by Stanisław Klosin

## THE WILANÓW PALACE MUSEUM



Photo by W. Holnicki

The first museum at Wilanów was opened in 1805 by the palace's owner at the time, Stanisław Kostka Potocki. The current museum, which takes up a substantial portion of the palace's interior, comes in two parts. Having bought your ticket in the ticket office near the gate, enter the wing on the right and descend the stairs. Heading through a small room containing some old royal coaches, head up the stairs into the first part of the museum – **The Polish Portrait Gallery** – featuring portraits from the 16th to 19th century. Wander through room after room of portraits of the rich and the powerful including some fascinating Polish coffin portraits of important figures. If portraits are your thing you will find this very interesting, though the lack of descriptions - and in some cases even the name of the people portrayed - is rather frustrating.

The tour leads you around the top of the house and then downstairs once more where you will find yourself in the **Wilanów Palace Residence**. Featuring residential rooms, suits of armour, Etruscan vases, magnificent frescoes, an exceedingly rare 18th-century glass grandfather clock and even a private chapel - there much here to admire. The central part of the lower floor is the most impressive. It is here that you will find the private apartments of King Jan III Sobieski and his wife, while the wings house the apartments of the subsequent owners of the palace. It is quite easy to spend a couple of hours wandering around the palace but be warned that it tends to fill with schoolchildren during the week and tourists at the weekends so there's not really a best time to visit during the school year. **FYI**

**- The palace will be closed for renovations from 16/12/16 to 14/01/17. ► ul. S.K. Potockiego 10/16, tel. (+48) 22 544 27 00, [www.wilanow-palac.art.pl](http://www.wilanow-palac.art.pl). Open 09:30 - 16:00. Closed Tue. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 20/15zł, Thu free, but you must obtain an obligatory ticket for 0zł (we're unfortunately not kidding). Audioguide (available in Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish) 12zł. Tickets can be purchased online.**







*Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Praga*

Gritty. Bo-ho. Up-and-coming. There are a lot of terms being tossed around to describe Praga, the eastern district of Warsaw that hugs the Vistula River, and they're all fairly apt. Praga has long been regarded as off-limits to Western visitors thanks to its criminal underclass and imposing tower blocks, but a revival of sorts now makes this section of town worthy of emphasising – especially if you prefer to see the city's artsy underbelly and get away from the well-trodden tourist path in Old Town. The area is still at least five years away from being hipster-soaked Brooklyn or boho Montmartre, but that's exactly why now is the time to go: a visit will mean you can say you saw the evolution in progress.

In practise and geographically Praga has always been set apart from Warsaw proper. Until 1791 the district was its own separate town and the inability to build a permanent bridge between Praga and Warsaw until the mid-18th century surely proved a factor in the separatism (ferries in the summer and a stroll across the iced-over Vistula in the winter were the main option for transit in the pre-bridge days). Finally in 1791 King Stanislaw August Poniatowski attached the district officially to Warsaw, dissolving it of its independence (at least on paper).

Praga wasn't given much time to enjoy its new status as part of Warsaw thanks to the Battle of Praga in 1794, which saw an aggressive invasion by the Russian army. Following the quick but devastating battle the Russians burned the entire district and massacred the 20,000 Poles living there. During World War II Praga wasn't quite as devastated as Warsaw proper (which isn't really saying

much if you've seen the condition Warsaw was left in). The Russians, again, arrived in Praga in July 1944 and stopped at the Vistula, famously leaving the Polish Home Army dangling during the Warsaw Uprising.

Today working-class Praga is the standard-bearer for cool, especially among those who find the tourist-heavy Old Town too Disneyfied and the sterile clubs of Warsaw proper as distasteful. Folks here prefer their bars dark and their fun improvised, and visitors can easily spend a day checking out the sights and an evening enjoying the often impressive beer selection.

## GETTING TO PRAGA

### BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Centralna the 160 bus will take you across the river and drop you at the Park Praski stop, a great place to begin your tour of Praga (you can nod at the bears as you disembark). If you're in the Old Town simply walk down the steps near the Royal Castle to Al. Solidarności and the Stare Miasto tram stop and every tram heading over the river (23, 26) stops at Park Praski as well. These same trams will return you to the Stare Miasto as well.

### BY TAXI

You can also take a taxi which should cost around 20-30zł and should take you from the centre area to Żąbkowska in less than 20 minutes. Please remember that the price and time depends on the traffic, so your journey may be longer during rush hours. ► I-3.



## KOŚCIUSZKOWCÓW MONUMENT

A formidable monument erected in 1985 to act as a memorial for those who fought in the First Polish Infantry Division. Formed in Russia, the division attempted to cross the Wisła river several times without success, in a bid to support the 1944 Uprising. ► I-4, ul. Wybrzeże Szczecińskie, Near Port Praski.

## ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Constructed between 1867 and 1869 to a design by Mikołaj Syczew, St. Mary Magdalene's was originally built for the large congregation of Russians living around Jagiellońska as well as people arriving from the East at the nearby Wileńska train station. Now belonging to the independent Polish Autocephaly Orthodox Church, this stunning, five-domed building features a breathtaking golden interior and some unusually cheerful abstract designs. One of only two Orthodox churches to survive a demolition campaign in the 1920s, it's easily the best-smelling church in Praga thanks to the heavy burning of rich incense. ► I-3, Al. Solidarności 52, **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 619 84 67. Open 11:00 - 15:00, Sun 12:00 - 16:00; Sat open during mass only.

## PRAGA DISTRICT MUSEUM

After long last the new museum of Warsaw's Praga District has finally opened to much fanfare. Located in the heart of Praga this relatively small Museum has struck just the right chord with its interesting and impressive permanent exhibition, which not only covers the complex history of Warsaw's right bank settlements over the years but also captures the colourful district in several interactive multimedia exhibits. We recommend exploring every corner of this great Museum and it will inevitably encourage you to head out the door and explore Praga itself. For more info about the museum, events and upcoming exhibitions log onto their website. ► J-3, ul. Targowa 50/52, tel. (+48) 22 518 34 30, [www.muzeumpragi.pl](http://www.muzeumpragi.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission 5/3zł. Sun free.

## PRASKA KAPELA PODWÓRKOWA MONUMENT

The tradition of cloth-capped buskers goes back a long way in Warsaw, and the best loved of the lot have been commemorated in the heart of Praga. The pre-war Praska Kapela Podwórkowa (The Praga Courtyard Band) are a bit of a local legend in these parts, and now the five piece band have been honoured with a monument sculpted by Andrzej Renes. ► I-3, Corner of ul. Floriańska and ul. Kłopotowskiego.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

### PRAGA TOURIST INFORMATION

Info on the local area and guided tours in English and Polish, plus an application for smartphones that offers a tour of Praga in English. Closes in Winter. ► H-3, ul. Ratuszowa 1/3, **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 244 57 79, [www.monopolpraski.pl](http://www.monopolpraski.pl). Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

## ZOO



© agnieszkall / dollarphotoclub

If the bears piqued your interest in animals then head to the nearby Warsaw Zoo, which was opened in 1928 and covers an area of 40 hectares. More than 5,000 species call it home and that includes all the biggies you'd expect: lions, gorillas, giraffes and elephants to name a few. As with every major Warsaw landmark, the zoo has plenty of war stories. It was bombed at the beginning of the conflict and by 1945 all the animals had either been killed, deported to the Third Reich, eaten by locals or escaped into the wild. Zoo director, Jan Żabiński, became something of a hero; wounded during the 1944 Uprising, Żabiński helped save countless lives by sheltering Jewish orphans inside the grounds of the zoo. The zoo officially re-opened in 1949. ► H-3, ul. Ratuszowa 1/3, **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 619 40 41, [www.zoo.waw.pl](http://www.zoo.waw.pl). Open 09:00 - 15:30. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 15/10zł.

## PRASKI PARK BEARS

Strangely enough, bears have been living on the concrete island in Praski Park since 1949; over 400 have been reared here before being packed off to zoos, safari parks and circuses around the globe. Although the bears look rather sleepy they can still pack a punch. Several years ago a drunken idiot was savaged after jumping into the enclosure. The three current well-rested residents are called Tatra, Mała and Sabina. ► I-3, Praski Park (entrance from al. Solidarności), **M**Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 619 40 41.

## STS. MICHAEL & FLORIAN CATHEDRAL

This giant gothic cathedral viewable from across the Vistula in Warsaw proper was built in reaction to the building of an Orthodox Church and a number of other structures on the Tsar's orders in the latter half of the 19th century. A certain Pole by the name of Father Ignacy Dutkiewicz decided to hit back with the construction of a huge new Catholic church, which was consecrated in 1901. Unsurprisingly this vast Gothic beast was blown to pieces by the Germans in September 1944 and is now

## THE STORY OF SYRENKA



The mermaid is the symbol of Warsaw, and as such you'll find her likeness on everything from buses to beer cans. Firmly established as an icon of Warsaw you'll find no less than three mermaid statues in Warsaw, specifically on (F-4), Old Town Square, (I-4), Świętokrzyski Bridge and on (G/H-5) ul. Karowa. The original mermaid – or syrenka in local parlance – stands in the Historical Museum, and was crafted from bronze by the expert hand of Ludwika Nitschowa.

The first known mention of a mermaid as the symbol of Warsaw can be traced to a royal seal dated from 1390, though this one certainly wasn't much to look at depicting a hideous looking bloke with a dragon's tail. It's no surprise that over the next few centuries this rather grim form was given a bit of plastic surgery. The actual legend rather has been debated and disputed scores of times. One story is that Prince Kazimierz, while hunting in the marshlands that are now Warsaw, lost his bearings and faced a night in the open. Miraculously, a mermaid emerged and guided the prince to safety by firing burning arrows into the sky. Warsaw was founded out of gratitude, and the mermaid adopted as its emblem.

Another story suggests that the Warsaw mermaid originally hailed from foreign climes. Accompanied by her twin sister the pair swam across the Baltic Sea, arriving in Gdańsk. Here the sisters split, one swimming to Copenhagen and the other down the Vistula finally emerging near the present-day Old Town. Local fishermen soon noticed someone tampering with their nets, freeing the fish in the process, and teamed up to catch this pesky vandal once and for all. They soon changed their minds once they saw her, and her siren-like singing voice made her a firm favourite among the lads. All except one who decided to trap her and take her on tour around the sideshows of Poland. His plan was soon foiled after a smitten fisherman hatched a daring plan to free her. In thanks to the townspeople who rescued her the Syrenka swore to make it her life's mission to protect Warsaw. It's this defensive stance of hers which explains why you'll see her armed to the teeth with a sword and shield. ► I-6.

almost exclusively the work of ongoing reconstruction between 1947 and 1970. Featuring a pair of steel-tipped 75-metre steeples, the church, which includes a photograph of what remained of it after the Nazis dynamited it on the left wall as you enter, has a rather plain interior though the vaulted ceilings are well worth a look at if you're in the area. ► I-3, ul. Floriańska 3, **M** Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 619 09 60, [www.katedra-floriana.waw.pl](http://www.katedra-floriana.waw.pl). Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 14:00 - 17:00. No visiting during mass please.

## ZĄBKOWSKA STREET

Nowhere is Praga's revival better illustrated than ulica Żąbkowska, the natural gravitational point for all the Boho and artistic types who have recently materialised to upgrade the district. Originally lined with timber frame houses, Żąbkowska experienced a fierce blaze in 1868 that led to wooden lodgings being replaced with tall tenements, all but one surviving WWII. Post-war neglect hit the street hard, with Żąbkowska allowed to fall into such disrepair that plans for wholesale demolition were seriously considered. However it survived, and today restoration work has seen many of buildings returned to their former glory, streets repaved and galleries opened. For some the very name Żąbkowska is synonymous with lively bars filled with student revolutionaries. ► J-3, ul. Żąbkowska, **M** Dworzec Wileński.



The Koneser Vodka Factory in Praga



Photo by Eugeniusz Lokajski "Brok". Courtesy of Warsaw Uprising Museum

Considering the epic scale of the bloodshed, and how brutal Hitler's tactics were in subjugating and eliminating each and every ethnic group, it's little surprise Poland gave birth to Europe's largest resistance movement. Even still, with the war moving towards its closing stages it was far from obvious that the resistance would abandon its partisan tactics and launch a bona fide military assault on the Nazis. By July 1944 the Red Army led by Marshal Rokossovsky had reached the Wisla, and on July 22 Nazi Governor of Warsaw Ludwig Fischer ordered the evacuation of German civilians from Warsaw; sensitive papers were torched and destroyed, trains screeched westwards to Berlin and all the signs suggested liberation was but days away. German intelligence was aware that an uprising was possible, yet nothing seemed clear cut. Fischer's appeals for 100,000 Poles to present themselves to work on anti-tank defences were ignored, as were broadcasts reminding the Poles of their heroic battle against Bolshevism in 1923. Tensions increased with Red Army leaflet drops urging Varsovians to arms, and were further exacerbated on July 30th with a Soviet radio announcement declaring, "People of the capital! To arms! Strike at the Germans! May your million strong population become a million soldiers, who will drive out the German invaders and win freedom." Still, like boxers prowling the ring, each side appeared locked in a waiting game, so much so that German military dispatches on the afternoon of **August 1, 1944** concluded with, "Warschau ist kalm." Warsaw was anything but.

On orders from General Tadeusz 'Bor' Komorowski 5pm signalled W-Hour ('Wybuch' standing for outbreak), the precise time when some 40,000 members of the Home Army would attack key German positions. Warsaw at the time was held by a garrison of 15,000 Germans, though any numerical supremacy the Poles could count on was offset by a chronic lack of arms, and a complete dearth of heavy armour. Nonetheless the element of surprise caught the Germans off guard, and in spite of heavy losses the Poles captured a string of strategic targets, including the Old Town, Prudential Tower (then the tallest building in Poland), and the post office. The first day cost the lives of 2,000 Poles, yet for the first time since occupation the Polish flag fluttered once more over the capital.

Yet in spite of these initial successes there remained several concerns. Polish battle groups were spread across the city, and many had failed to link up as planned. More worryingly, several objectives had been met with disaster – the police district around Al. Szucha (G-4) remained firmly in German hands; even more importantly, so did the airport. Hitler, meanwhile, was roused out of his torpor, screaming for "No prisoners to be taken," and "Every inhabitant to be shot."

Within days German reinforcements started pouring in, and on August 5th and 6th Nazi troops rampaged through the western Wola district, massacring over 40,000 men, women and children in what would become one of the most savage episodes of the Uprising. Indeed, it was to prove a mixed first week for the Poles. In liberated areas, behind the barricades, cultural life thrived – over 130 newspapers sprang up, religious services were celebrated and a scout-run postal service was introduced. Better still, the first allied airdrops hinted at the support of the west. As it turned out, this was just papering over the cracks. The Germans, under the command of Erich von dem Bach, replied with heavy artillery, aerial attacks, armoured trains and tanks. Even worse, the practice of using Polish women as human shields was quickly introduced.

The insurgents were a mixed bag, featuring over 4,000 women in their ranks, a unit of Slovaks, scores of Jews liberated from a Warsaw concentration camp, a platoon of deaf and dumb volunteers led by an officer called Yo Yo, and an escaped English prisoner of war called John. Fantastically ill-equipped, the one thing on their side was an almost suicidal fanaticism and belief. Casualties were almost 20 times as high as those inflicted on the Germans, yet the Poles carried on the fight with stoic self-assurance. Airdrops were vital if the uprising was to succeed, though hopes were scuppered with Stalin's refusal to allow Allied planes landing rights in Soviet-held airports. Instead the RAF set up a new route running from the Italian town of Brindisi to Warsaw, though casualty rates proved high with over 16% of aircraft lost, and the drops often inaccurate – one such mission concluding with 960 canisters out of a 1,000 falling into German hands. All hopes, it seemed, rested on the Russians.

After six weeks of inaction Rokossovsky finally gave the go-ahead for a Polish force under General Berling to cross the river and relieve the insurgents. The operation was a debacle, and with heavy casualties and no headway made the assault was called off. For the Russians, this single attempt at crossing the Wisla was enough; Warsaw was on its own. Already by this time the situation in Warsaw's Old Town, defended by 8,000 Poles, had become untenable, and a daring escape route was hatched through the sewers running under the city. The Germans were now free to focus on wiping out the remaining outposts of resistance, a task undertaken

## LEARN MORE



### WARSAW UPRISING MUSEUM

Opened in 2004, this remains one of Poland's best museums. Packed with interactive displays, photographs, video footage and miscellaneous exhibits it's a museum that's guaranteed to leave a mark on all visitors. Occupying a former tram power station the 2,000m<sup>2</sup> space is split over several levels, leading visitors through the chronological story of the Uprising (provided they don't make any wrong turns, alas, a common mistake).

Start off by learning about life under Nazi rule, your tour accompanied by the background rattle of machine guns, dive bombers and a thumping heartbeat. Different halls focus on the many aspects of the Uprising; walk through a replica radio station, or a covert printing press.

The mezzanine level features film detailing the first month of battle, before which visitors get to clamber through a mock sewer. The final sections are devoted to the creation of a Soviet puppet state, a hall of remembrance, and a particularly poignant display about the destruction of the city; take time to watch the black and white 'before and after' shots of important Warsaw landmarks being systematically obliterated by the Nazis as punishment.

Near the exit check out the film "City of Ruins," a silence-inducing 5 minute 3-D aerial 'film' which took 2 years to make and used old pictures and new technology to recreate a picture of the desolation of 'liberated' Warsaw in March 1945.

There is also an exact replica of a B24 Allied plane once used to make supply drops over the besieged city. A viewing platform (open weather permitting) and 'peace garden' wrap up this high impact experience. FYI: There are new QR-code triggered videos for the hearing impaired at every exhibition. ► B-7, ul. Grzybowska 79, Rondo Daszyńskiego, tel. (+48) 22 539 79 05, [www.1944.pl](http://www.1944.pl). Open 08:00 - 18:00, Thu 08:00 - 20:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 18/14zł (children under 7 free). Sun free. Audioguides for 10zł per person.

with glee and armour. Six hundred millimetre shells were landing on the centre every eight minutes, and casualties were rising to alarming rates. Surrender negotiations were initiated in early September, though it wasn't till the end of the month – by which time all hope had been exhausted – that they took a concrete shape. Abandoned by her allies the Poles were forced to capitulate once more, some **63 days** after they had taken on the Reich. "The battle is finished," wrote a eulogy in the final edition of the Information Bulletin. "From the blood that has been shed, from the common toil and misery, from the pains of our bodies and souls, a new Poland will arise – free."

## THE AFTERMATH

Having deposited their weaponry at pre-designated sites, 11,668 Polish soldiers marched into German captivity, defeated but proud. **The battle had cost up to 200,000 civilian lives, while military casualties between Germans and Poles would add a further 40,000 to the figure.** Hitler was ecstatic; with the Uprising out of the way his plan to raze Warsaw could finally be realised. Remaining inhabitants were exiled (though around 2,000 are believed to have seen the liberation by hiding in the ruins), and the Germans set about obliterating what was left of the city. "No stone can remain standing," warned Himmler, and what happened next can only be described as the methodical and calculated murder of a city. Buildings were numbered according to their importance to Polish culture before being dynamited by teams of engineers, while less historic areas were simply burned to the ground. Nothing was spared the iconoclasm, not even trees. "I have seen many towns destroyed," exclaimed General Eisenhower after the war, "But nowhere have I been faced with such destruction."

**Modern studies estimate the cost of damage at around 54 billion dollars.** In human terms Poland lost much more. With the Uprising died a golden generation, the very foundation a new post-war Poland could build on. Those veterans who survived were treated with suspicion and disdain by the newly installed communist government, others were persecuted for perceived western sympathies. Post-war Soviet show trials convicted 13 leaders of the Uprising for anti-Soviet actions, and thereafter the Uprising was condemned as a folly to serve the bourgeois ends of the Polish government-in-exile.

## WHAT TO SEE

### MONUMENT TO THE WARSAW UPRISING

It was only with the regime close to collapse that this unconventional, not to say controversial monument was unveiled. Completed in 1989 and designed by Wincenty Kućma, it depicts a group of insurgents in battle, and another faction retreating into the sewers. ► E-4, Pl. Krasińskich, Ratusz Arsenal.





*Take a walk through Warsaw's vivid History at Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews*

At the time Hitler chose to expand Germany's territories under the odious excuse of providing 'living space' for the German people, Warsaw's Jewish population numbered 350,000 and growing. Neither pogroms nor the occasional boycott of Jewish businesses deterred Jews from settling in the Polish capital and only New York could boast a larger Jewish community. Yet within six years Warsaw's thriving Jewish scene was all but wiped from the map, with over 90 percent perishing either in the Warsaw Ghetto or the gas chambers of Treblinka.

Although anti-Semitism was by no means rare, Poland was seen as a relative safe haven, and it drew settlers forced into flight by more discriminatory regimes elsewhere. By the inter-war years the Jewish population had made significant contributions to the social, political and cultural fabric of Poland, a contribution that would eventually be extinguished by the monstrous racial policies of the Nazis. When Warsaw fell following a brief yet brutal siege the city's ancient Jewish population was damned to destruction. By 1940 Jews were forcibly penned into an area that already housed most of the Jewish population. On March 27, 1940, the Judenrat - a Jewish council answerable to the Nazi's whims, was ordered to build a wall around the ghetto and a resettlement deadline of October 15 was handed to the city's Jews. Failure to move into the assigned area was punishable by death. Spanning 18 kilometres and enclosing 73 of Warsaw's 1,800 streets, the area was carved into a 'small' and 'large' ghetto, the two linked by a wooden bridge standing over ul. Chłodna (E-2). Today an installation

titled **'Footbridge of Memory'** stands at this spot, with optical fibres illuminating the former handrails over the street at night.

From the beginning conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto were harsh; recovered Nazi files show that while ethnic Germans in Warsaw were granted a food allowance totaling 2,613 calories per day, Jews and other groups deemed 'sub-human' were expected to survive on 184 calories. Unsurprisingly a black market supported by a smuggling network ran rife, with some 80 percent of the food in the ghetto supplied through illegal means. Still it was not enough and as the noose tightened starvation became the principal enemy. In 1941 over 100,000 died in this way, their bodies often left to rot in the streets. Of the 800 ghettos scattered around the Third



Collection of Shalom Foundation by Golda Tencer - Szurmiej

# Jewish Warsaw

Reich, Warsaw was the largest and also the deadliest. At its zenith approximately 380,000 residents found themselves squashed into the ghetto, with an average of eight people to a room. Yet amid this sea of suffering a remarkable social scene flourished, as proved by the meticulous ghetto diaries kept by **Emanuel Ringelblum**. Although murdered by the Nazis in 1944, Ringelblum, an intellectual and social activist, kept volumes of notes documenting the day-to-day life of ghetto inhabitants. It is from his painstaking notes we learn of the soup kitchens and charities that existed, of the musical concerts and cabarets and the fifty or so underground newspapers that circulated amongst the masses.

The illusion of a self-contained, cruel, but surviving parallel world was shattered in 1942 when the Wannsee Conference rubber-stamped plans for the 'final solution to the Jewish question' and the first deportations to death camps began in July. Over the next few weeks around 265,000 Jews were harried to a waiting area known as **Umschlagplatz** (C-3), from which they were loaded into cattle waggons destined for the **Treblinka** gas chambers. A year later a new action to thin the ghetto was launched, and by April 1943 a final push to completely liquidate the biggest ghetto began.


For too long the Jews had been limited to passive resistance, but now, with rumours circulating about death camps, a band of ill-equipped insurgents faced up to the full weight of the Nazi military machine. Led by Mordechai Anielewicz, the Jewish Fighting Organisation (ŻOB) launched the **Ghetto Uprising** on April 19, 1943. Numbering a few hundred the Jewish fighters continued

their dogged resistance, but faced with heavy artillery and even Stuka Dive Bombers it was a doomed struggle. Vicious street-to-street, house-to-house battles ensued, with insurgents often burnt out of their boltholes by flamethrowers and gas. On May 8 German forces surrounded the principal command post of the rebels on ul. Miła 18 and rather than face capture Anielewicz and his cabal opted for mass suicide. By May 16 the Uprising was over, with German commander Jurgen Stroop announcing, "The former Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no longer in existence." With the fighting over the rest of the ghetto was levelled, and its inmates either sent to Treblinka or assigned to Gęsiówka (ul. Gęsia), a small concentration camp.


It is estimated that some 15,000 Jews survived the war hiding out on the Aryan side. Today Warsaw's Jewish population is estimated to stand only at around 2,000, however large efforts have been put into honouring the city's Jewish heritage and reintroducing Jewish culture - most notably the opening of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in 2014.

## WHAT TO SEE

### A FOOTBRIDGE OF MEMORY

One of the most recognisable images of the Warsaw Ghetto is that of the footbridge constructed over ul. Chłodna to connect the large and small ghettos. To commemorate that spot is one of Warsaw's newest memorials: a pair of metal poles connected via optical fibres which, after the sun sets, project the shape of the footbridge over the road via light. Designed by Tomasz Tusch-Lec and installed in September 2011, the memorial also has viewing windows inside the poles where visitors can flip through images of life in the Warsaw Ghetto. By now you've also probably noticed the pavement outline that symbolises the ghetto's borders, which can be found on the sidewalk as you tromp down ul. Chłodna. ► **C-6, Intersection of ul. Chłodna and ul. Żelazna,  Rondo ONZ.**

### GHETTO HEROES MONUMENT

In the middle of a large, attractive square beside the POLIN Museum, you'll find the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, which commemorates the first Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. Designed by Leon Suzin and sculpted by Nathan Rapoport in 1948, close by stands an earlier memorial tablet to the Ghetto Heroes, also by Suzin, which was unveiled in 1946. Interestingly, stone used in the monument had been brought to Warsaw by the Nazis and was to be used in architectural projects planned for a new Warsaw by Hitler's architect, Albert Speer. In the square, you'll also find a statue of Jan Karski, a Polish resistance fighter famed for informing the allies about the existence of Nazi death camps and the systematic destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto. ► **D-4, ul. Żamenhofa,  Ratusz Arsenal.**



© Mat Fahrenholz



The breathtaking museum entranceway

Photo by Mat Fahrenheit

## NOŻYK SYNAGOGUE

Built between 1898 and 1902 in a neo-Romanesque style, this was the only Warsaw synagogue to survive the ravages of war. It was fully restored between 1977 and 1983, and is still used by Warsaw's Jewish community today. ► E-7, ul. Twarda 6, Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 620 43 24, [www.warszawa.jewish.org.pl](http://www.warszawa.jewish.org.pl). Open 09:00 - 20:00, Fri 09:00 - 14:00, Sun 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat. No visiting during services. Groups of more than ten should reserve in advance. Admission 10zł.

## OKOPOWA STREET JEWISH CEMETERY

A beautiful and poignant place to visit. The cemetery was originally founded in 1806 and currently houses around 250,000 tombs. Amongst those buried here are Ludwik Zamenhof, inventor of the international language Esperanto. ► B-5, ul. Okopowa 49/51, tel. (+48) 22 838 26 22, [www.beisolem.jewish.org.pl](http://www.beisolem.jewish.org.pl). Open 10:00 - dusk, Fri 09:00 - 13:00, Sun 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat. Admission 10zł.

## TRACES OF THE GHETTO

Following the Ghetto Uprising the whole area was levelled so few traces remain. If you duck into the courtyard at ul. Sienna 55 you will see a remaining part of the ghetto wall complete with a commemorative plaque. Somewhat impressively, the local government have decided to honour Warsaw's Holocaust history by introducing a 'Ghetto Trail.' Developed with the help of the Jewish Historical Institute the route has seen the boundary of the former Warsaw Ghetto outlined on pavements, as well as the appearance of 21 dual language information boards positioned in places of particular interest. ► D-8, ul. Sienna 55, Rondo ONZ.

## UMSCHLAGPLATZ

Found on ul. Stawki, close to the intersection with ul. Dzika, Umschlagplatz is a bleak, slightly disappointing monument marking the spot where around 300,000 Jews were loaded on cattle wagons bound for Treblinka. The Nazi commandant in charge of the deportations lived directly opposite on ul. Stawki 5/7. Lying between Umschlagplatz and the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes lies the legendary monument labelled Miła 18 (note: this is not the address where you can find the monument). Essentially no more than a symbolic grassy knoll, it marks the spot from where the Ghetto Uprising was directed. ► C-3, Dworzec Gdański.

## POLIN

### POLIN

#### MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS

A millennium of Polish Jewish history is explained in this excellent museum which opened on 28th October, 2014 following many years of planning and in less than a year and a half it won the prestigious award for European Museum of the Year in April 2016! Located in the Muranów district, home to a large Jewish community in the interwar period, this is where the Warsaw Ghetto stood during World War II. Note the almost total absence of any pre-war buildings in the surrounding district.

The building itself is a stunning new copper and glass structure designed by Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamäki. Each of the eight galleries addresses a different era in the long history of the Jewish people beginning in the forests of the Poland of King Mieszko (960-992), where legend has it that the first Jews decided to settle. The exhibition goes on to chart the arrival of the first Jewish diplomats and traders, through periods where Jews enjoyed social and religious freedoms and protection not bestowed upon them elsewhere in Europe, to the calamitous events of the 20th century which saw the Polish Jews nearly wiped out. Covering over 4,000 square metres, the exhibition is well laid out and includes clear English language descriptions. Visit at your own leisure - in which case we recommend taking one of the audio guides available at the ticket desk, or join one of the regular guided tours. The exhibition is truly enlightening, both about the history of the Jewish people and their Christian neighbours and also the history of the Polish state during the last 1,000 years. While the period of the Holocaust is described very well and will leave you shocked regardless of your prior knowledge on the subject, for the most part the museum's permanent exhibition is a celebration of a thousand years of Jewish life in the Kingdom and later Republic of Poland. Give yourself a few hours to be able to fully explore the various galleries.

The museum is also home to a canteen-style kosher restaurant, a café and a Resource Center that features a specialist library dedicated to the history, culture and religion of Polish Jews plus a collection of historical maps of the Second Polish Republic, including street plans. POLIN is extremely active with a rich cultural program, including temporary exhibitions, concerts, debates, films, lectures and workshops and is helping to promote a new positive dialogue in Poland. ► D-4, ul. Anielewicz 6, Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 471 03 01, [www.polin.pl](http://www.polin.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Wed, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Tue, Last entrance to the permanent exhibition is 2 hours before closing. Permanent exhibition: 25/15zł, Temporary exhibition: 12/8 zł and combined ticket for 30/20zł. Thu is free for the permanent exhibition. All tickets can be purchased on [www.bilety.polin.pl](http://www.bilety.polin.pl).



Poland's greatest composer, and Warsaw's favourite son, Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) has lent his name to everything from vodka to airports (and even an asteroid). And in the spirit of all the greats there's a considerable element of mystery surrounding the man. Say it very, very quietly, but there's even dispute as to his birthday and parentage. Most sources agree he was born on February 22, 1810, yet some claim his family could be found celebrating his birth on March 1. At the time of his death only Jane Stirling, his Scottish benefactor, claimed to know the truth, and this she wrote on a piece of paper before burying it with him. Furthermore, while most accept he was the son of a French expatriate some experts argue he was the bastard child of an unnamed aristocrat. The truth has been lost to time.

There's one thing we can be certain of, however, and that's his birthplace – the town of Żelazowa Wola fifty kilometres west of Warsaw. However, he stayed there for just a year, with the family moving to Warsaw in 1811 after his 'father,' a man who'd fought the Russians in the Napoleonic Wars, found a job as a French tutor.

By all accounts he was a prodigy from the offing. The young Fryderyk started learning piano at the age of four, and by the age of eight had already performed at what is now the Presidential Palace. Yet in spite of his obvious talents applications for a state grant were repeatedly refused. Nevertheless, his childhood was happy, and the gingerbread eating Fryderyk received gushing reviews in local columns and press.

A diligent student he was educated at home for the first 13 years, before attending Warsaw's Lyceum, and then the Warsaw Music Conservatory. He continued to blossom under its director, the Polish composer Joseph Elsner, who was wowed by Chopin's musical mastery. He graduated from the Conservatory in 1829, the same year he was to meet Konstancha Gładkowska, and his unrequited love for her inspired many of his early compositions.

Within three weeks of graduation he made a sparkling foreign debut in Vienna, before returning to Poland to perform the premier of his Piano Concerto in F minor. Already recognised as an amazing talent, Chopin started showing the signs of illness that would continue to blight the rest of his life. A keen traveller (on record is a tour of Europe undertaken in 1826 during which he visited Dresden, Kraków, Prague and numerous other places as a tourist), Chopin set off to play in Vienna in November 1830, following a farewell party in a Wola tavern.

Unbeknownst to him at the time, that was to be his last taste of Warsaw. By the end of the month Poland had risen in rebellion against the ruling Russians. Dissuaded from joining the uprising himself Chopin drew inspiration from events to write his masterpiece, *Revolution*. Passages of his Stuttgart diary record his torment: "Oh God, do you exist? Or are you yourself a Muscovite!" Choosing to stay in exile Chopin settled in playboy Paris where he was welcomed by Polish émigrés, as well as upcoming composers and high society. His friends numbered Berlioz, Bellini (who he is buried next to) and Mendelssohn, as well as high profile Poles like the uncrowned King, Prince Adam Czartoryski and bard Adam Mickiewicz, while his dapper dress and natural charms attracted a string of adoring females.

Drawing on his Polish upbringing the 1830s saw Chopin enjoy an impressively productive spell, composing a series of acclaimed polonaises and mazurkas. Ill health followed him however, so much so that when he was taken ill on a trip to meet his parents in 1835 some Polish scandal sheets reported him dead.

He wasn't, and the defining point of his life was to occur two years later when he met the controversial author George Sand (yes, that's a woman). His first impression is recorded as being surprisingly acid: 'what an unpleasant woman', he is known to have commented. Already secretly engaged to a 17 year old Polish girl, how Chopin's life would have evolved if he had never seen Sand again is open to speculation. Instead he embarked on a torrid nine year affair with this classic 'scarlet woman', with one stage of their rocky relationship marked by a stint in an abandoned monastery on the island of Mallorca.

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Full contents online:  
[warsaw.inyourpocket.com](http://warsaw.inyourpocket.com)

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Chopin's death mask, created upon his passing in Paris, 1849




*Photo: collection of Jack Gibbons - CC BY-SA 3.0 - Wikimedia Commons*

Racked with chronic lung problems and a near permanent cough, the faltering affair spun out of control when Sand, a loose-moraled man-killer, serialised the novel *Lucretia Floriani* in a Paris newspaper in 1846. The boorish, asexual antihero is commonly recognised as being a parody of Chopin. Broke, ill and now broken-hearted, Chopin led an increasingly miserable and secluded life. He finally passed away in his Paris apartment aged just 39 – though just like his birth, his death is equally contentious; some believe tuberculosis as the cause of death, others a malady such as emphysema or cystic fibrosis. If you believe the stories he carried a lock of Sand's hair till the day he died (though by the same token he is also alleged to have carried an urn of Polish soil). Buried in Pere-Lachaise cemetery in Paris, on his insistence his body was cut open (he was petrified of being buried alive) and his heart later interned in a pillar of Warsaw's Holy Cross Church. His funeral was as weird as his life, delayed for two weeks while church authorities debated whether to grant his wish and allow Mozart's Requiem to be sung at his funeral (the point of contention being the presence of female singers). Regarded as the pinnacle of the Romantic style his music and legend survive to this day.



## FRYDERYK CHOPIN MUSEUM



Touted as one of the most high tech in Europe the museum officially opened in the spring of 2010 to help mark the 200th anniversary of one of Poland's most famous sons. Taking up four floors the museum features an interactive style and shares in the life of Chopin from start to finish leaving absolutely no detail out. Among the 5,000 exhibits are a lock of hair, his school exercise books, a sweet box, a gold watch presented to the ten year old Frederic by an admiring Italian singer and the passport he used to enter England. So comprehensive is the collection it even features the last letter he wrote to his family and dried flowers from his deathbed. Also, of course, are several paintings and sculptures (including his death mask), and a recreation of his Paris drawing room and even an intriguing section on the women who made the man. However, what really revolutionises this museum is the way your route is conducted. Aside from an avalanche of e-books, audio-visals, music games and touchscreen options, the museum allows visitors to 'adapt their trip to their particular circumstances'. Put simply those entering can choose exactly what they want to see, and how much they want to know about it. Even better are the micro-chipped tickets that can be swiped along different interactive exhibits to allow the visitor to hear music, stories or watch a film. One area that was particularly popular is the musical Twister game, which had normally stoic middle-aged tourists leaping from spot to spot as music played. Mr Chopin, welcome to the 21st century. As for the building, that's worth getting to know as well. Located in the Ostrogski Palace the structure housing the museum is something of a Warsaw landmark, and was originally designed by Tylman van Gameren. In the past it's been home to everything from a Napoleonic military hospital to the riotous Morgan's Pub, and its catacombs are said to be home of the legendary Golden Duck - a princess charmed by the devil before being transformed into a beaked amphibian. ► H-7, ul. Okólnik 1,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 441 62 51, [www.chopin.museum/pl](http://www.chopin.museum/pl). Open 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon, Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 22/13zł, family ticket 62zł, Sun free. Number of visitors is restricted, so it is advisable to reserve tickets in advance by email or phone.  

## THE GREAT ORCHESTRA OF CHRISTMAS CHARITY



Photo by Łukasz Giersz

No, Charlie Brown, this isn't the name of your next film; the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (known in PL as 'Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy') is one of Poland's biggest non-profit charity organisations which has raised millions of zloty buying medical equipment for the dilapidated Polish health system since it began in 1993.

Founded by a man who can best be described as a force of nature, **Jerzy Owsiak**, GOCC is essentially a huge one day telethon aimed at raising awareness and lots of money for children's health care. Initially organised to provide "health care for children by supplying medical equipment to public hospitals," GOCC changes its beneficiary cause each year and has since raised money for child victims of motor accidents and children with serious vision problems. In its first year, GOCC raised 1.5 million USD but since these early days it has become the biggest event of its kind in Poland with over 138 million USD raised to date.

Once a year the Great Orchestra's final event is organised by volunteers in virtually every town in Poland, with hundreds of bands playing for free at the various festival sites. The event traditionally takes place on the second Sunday of the year, January 15th this year. You'll see volunteers everywhere you go holding donation cans and smiling. you are Warsaw being the capital and all, the finale is truly grandiose with a giant concert under the Palace of Culture and a massive fireworks display at 20:00 which is called 'Light to Heaven'. A truly virtuous and remarkably successful project, this year's aim is to raise money to buy equipment that will help save the lives of prematurely born children and insulin pumps for pregnant women with diabetes. Those who have enough heart to contribute will receive one as well: the iconic red sticker which you will see on everyone in town this day. And you can have a heart too, Scrooge. Go on. 'It's for the kids.' [www.en.wosp.org.pl](http://www.en.wosp.org.pl)

## WHAT TO SEE

### ŁAZIENKI PARK

Our youthful cherry-cheeked hero frequently gave concerts in the **Belvedere Palace** (ul. Belwederska 52, G-5), then the stamping ground of the Russian aristocracy. It was here he played for the Tsar's brother, Great Prince Konstanty, whose numerous duties included being the commander-in-chief of the Polish Army. So taken was he by Chopin's skills that he persuaded him to pen a march to be played during military parades.

Elsewhere in Łazienki don't dare miss a visit to the art nouveau **Chopin Monument** (G-4) next to the Botanical Garden. Set in the midst of a rose garden it was erected in 1926, the work of acclaimed sculptor Wacław Szymanowski. As part of the Nazi brutalization of Warsaw it was dynamited by German busybodies on May 31, 1940. The following day an unknown patriot had placed a placard on the smouldering ruin declaring: 'I don't know who destroyed me, but I know why; so I don't play the funeral march for your leader.' A plaster-cast of the original model allowed the statue to be rebuilt and a faithful reconstruction was unveiled in 1958. An identical replica can be found at Japan's Hamamatsu Academy of Music. ► H-11, **Politechnika**.

### CHOPIN BENCHES



The good city of Warsaw has devised one more way to bring Chopin to the people, and that's by way of fifteen musical benches that have been placed at key sites connected with his life. Made of cast iron and polished black stone these benches, designed by Professor Jerzy Porębski, feature a button which when pressed have been designed to unleash a thirty second torrent of Chopin. They also come equipped with a route map as well as brief explanations in Polish and English as to the site's relevance to Chopin. However, that's not all. These benches see Chopin go techno: each one comes inscribed with a special code – take a pic on your phone, then send it to the instructed number and you'll be rewarded to free access to Chopin melodies, facts, figures and photographs. ► G-6.

### HOLY CROSS CHURCH

No Chopinologist can leave Warsaw without first visiting the final resting place of his heart (the rest of him being in Paris' famous Père Lachaise cemetery). Added to the church in 1882 his heart was sealed in an urn and then placed behind a tablet bearing his likeness specially carved by Leonardo Marconi. ► G-6, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 3, **Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**, tel. (+48) 22 826 89 10, [www.swkrzyp.pl](http://www.swkrzyp.pl). Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 14:00 - 16:00, No visiting during mass please (at 12:00 daily).

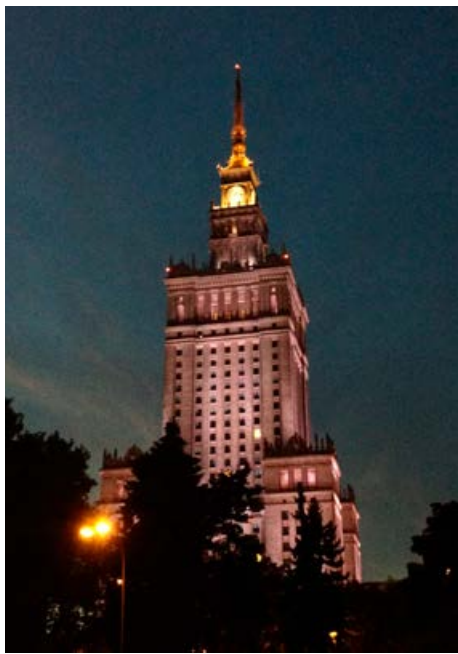


Photo by Bartek Matyjas

## PALACE OF CULTURE & SCIENCE

For all the aggressive westernisation that has overcome Warsaw, the four decades of communism have yet to be completely erased from the face of Warsaw. You couldn't miss this hulking giant of a landmark if you tried.

Originally commissioned by Stalin as a 'gift from the Soviet people' the 231 metre structure actually takes its inspiration from the capitalist world, namely the Empire State Building, but, believe it or not, was specifically designed to include influences from all of Poland's architectural styles. Stalin had sent a secret delegation to New York to learn both about the building and American construction methods, though the outbreak of WWII meant that it wasn't until 1952 that his architects were able to commence putting their knowledge into practise. Lev Rudynev, the brains behind the equally monstrous Lomonosov University in Moscow, was put in charge of the design and set about making the building into one of the most notorious examples of Socialist Realist architecture in the world. Over 5,000 workers were ferried in from the Soviet states and housed in a purpose-built village in Jelonki, west Warsaw, where they were effectively cut off from the outside world. Working around the clock, it took them just three years to complete the Palace. In all 16 died during the construction, though despite the Olympian efforts of the labourers Stalin never lived to see his pet project completed.

Built using an estimated 40 million bricks and housing 3,288 rooms the Palace's purpose was to serve as not just party headquarters but also 'the people's castle', with invitations to the annual New Year's Eve Ball issued to the best workers in

socialist Poland. Regardless of this the building became an object of hatred and the palace was seen as no more than a symbol of Russian hegemony. Viewed from a distance – apparently it can be spotted from 30km away – the palace appears a faceless monolith. Viewed closely several intricate details appear in focus. Under Stalin's orders architects travelled around Poland's key cultural sights, from Wawel to Zamość, observing Polish architectural traditions, hence the numerous crenellations, courtyards and motifs.

Once inside the ground floor becomes a maze of halls and corridors, with chambers named after Eastern icons – Yuri Gagarin, Marie Skłodowska-Curie (a famous communist sympathiser), etc. Brass chandeliers hang over clacking parquet flooring, secret lifts lie hidden around and allegorical socialist reliefs take inspiration from ancient mythology – it's easy to imagine Bond snooping around planting listening devices.

The building boasts over 3,300 rooms most of which are conference facilities or offices. Besides the theatres, bars and museums (**Museum of Technology**) on the ground level, visitors looking to further explore the building can take a tour of some of the conference and commercial spaces, but are best directed to the viewing terrace on the 30th floor. To get there you'll need to buy a ticket, after which you'll be shepherded into an old-style lift complete with a lovely lift attendant who has probably been doing the job since the building opened.

The Palace recently introduced a new virtual reality mobile and stationary App (in English and Polish) which shows you Warsaw throughout the centuries from the point of view of the Palace of Culture. This is a fascinating technological tourist treat and a once in a lifetime chance to stare into the past while standing in the present and looking out over the future. ► E-8, Pl. Defilad 1, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 656 76 00, [www.pkin.pl](http://www.pkin.pl). Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission for the viewing level is 20/15zł. Group ticket for more than 10 people 15zł per person. **TC**

## MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY

A vast collection dedicated to the history of everything technological inside the equally enormous Palace of Culture & Science, this museum is only missing a map. Truly huge, and clearly laid out by somebody with a sadistic sense of humour, the scores of rooms are scattered willy nilly and organised with what appears to be a contemptuous disregard for reason and logic. Highlights include a cavalcade of impossible-looking motorbikes and aeroplanes, a room packed with 19th century musical boxes, historical cars like a 1936 Lux-Sport limousine chassis and a small exhibition celebrating space exploration that could do with some serious updating. Decorated with lace curtains and staffed by an army of sinister-looking old ladies, this museum guarantees that you won't learn a thing no matter how hard you try, but it's a strangely rewarding experience that really has to be seen to be believed. ► E-8, Pl. Defilad 1, **M** Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 656 67 47, [www.mtip.pl](http://www.mtip.pl). Open 09:00 - 17:00; Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 25/15zł (20/11zł in Dec). Family ticket (up to 5 people) 50zł (45zł in Dec). Guided tours in English - additional 50zł per group. **TC**

## ŁÓDŹ IN YOUR POCKET

Though you may not have the first clue how to pronounce it (think of it as "Woodge"), Łódź has emerged as one of Poland's most exciting young cities. Though it may not be possessed of the postcard rack panoramas and historical charisma of Prague and Kraków, post-industrial Łódź boasts a rich cultural tradition at the forefront of Polish cinema, the longest pedestrian high street in Europe, and some of the country's finest after-dark venues. To learn all there is to love in the city, visit [lodz.inyourpocket.com](http://lodz.inyourpocket.com) - the best English-language guide to Łódź.



## GETTING TO ŁÓDŹ

Łódź lies 140km south west of Warsaw and is easily accessed by train. When modernization finishes Łódź will be within an hour's reach of Warsaw, but for the time being journey time is around two hours and fifteen minutes, while they continue to work on the new high speed link. If you're travelling from the capital you'll need to book a ticket running to Łódź Kaliska train station (Łódź Fabryczna is under construction until late 2016). The city centre is best reached by taxi. Taxis stand directly outside the main entrance the train station, though travellers should only use cabs that are clearly marked.

## SOME BASICS

Łódź first appeared in written records in 1332 under the name of Łódzia and remained little more than a rural backwater for the following centuries, with a population numbering just 800 as late as the 16th century.

The birth of modern Łódź as we know it can be traced to 1820, when statesman, philosopher and writer Stanisław Staszic began a campaign to turn the Russian-controlled city into a centre of manufacturing. The first cotton mill was opened in 1825 and by 1839 the first steam-powered factory in Poland and Russia was officially christened. A massive influx of workers from as far afield as Portugal, England and France flooded the city, though the mainstay of the town's population remained Poles, Germans and Jews. Within a matter of decades Łódź had grown into the biggest textile production centre in the Russian Empire, during which time vast fortunes were made and lost by the major industrialist families.

By the outbreak of WWI the town stood out as one of the most densely populated cities on the planet with a population of approximately 13,000 people per square kilometre. But hard times were around the corner; the inter-war years signaled an end to the town's Golden Age, and the loss of Russian and German economic markets led

to strikes and civil unrest that were to become a feature of inter-war Łódź. Things were about to get worse: the outbreak of WWII saw the city annexed into The Third Reich.

The following six years of occupation left the population decimated with 120,000 Poles killed, and an estimated 300,000 Jews perishing in what was to become known as the Łitzmannstadt ghetto. Following the war, and with much of Warsaw in ruins, Łódź was used as Poland's temporary capital until 1948. The wholesale war-time destruction of Warsaw also saw many of Poland's eminent artists and cultural institutes decamp to the nearest big city; that city was Łódź, and today the town can boast a rich cultural heritage, with Poland's leading film school, one of the most important modern art galleries in Europe, and an exciting underground culture.

Today Łódź is a city slowly rediscovering itself, growing in confidence and coming to terms with its patchy history. Overlooked by many visitors to Poland, this is a city full of hidden charms: from the awesome palaces that belonged to the hyper-rich industrialists who made the city, to Europe's longest pedestrian street (Piotrkowska) to the largest municipal park in Europe. You'll find everything you need to know about the city in our print guide to Łódź, as well as our full content online at [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com).

## MANUFAKTURA

How many times have you heard a shopping centre call itself 'More than a shopping centre?' In the case of Manufaktura, for once the hyperbole is entirely justified. For this is indeed more than a shopping centre. In fact, we really shouldn't be calling it a shopping centre at all. Covering a space of 150,000m<sup>2</sup> Manufaktura does of course feature a mall with endless shopping opportunities, but that would not tell the full story.

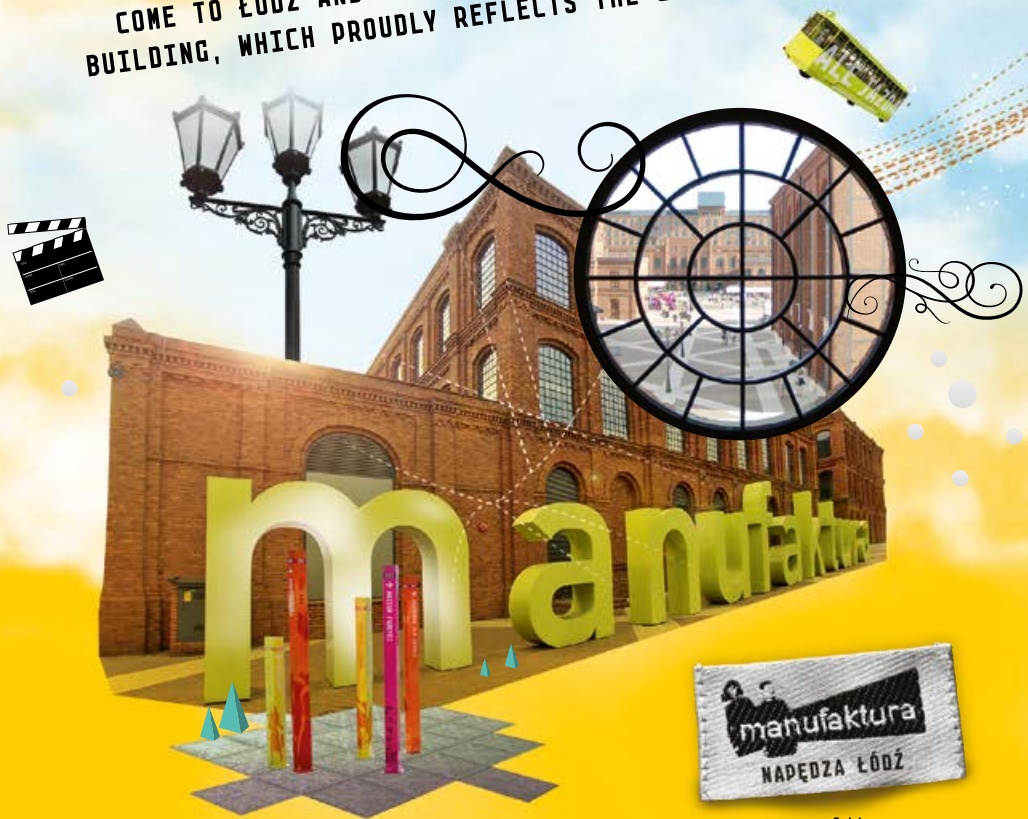
Manufaktura today is the result of Poland's largest renovation project since the reconstruction of Warsaw's Old Town in the 1950s. Originally a series of factories that were constructed in the latter part of the 19th century the restoration of the old factories quite simply has to be seen to be believed. Enter through the Poznański gate, where workers used to file through everyday on their way to the mills, and you'll arrive at the projects ground zero: the 30,000m<sup>2</sup> Rynek (main square). Featuring Europe's longest fountain the square is the cultural hub, with restaurants, fitness club and IMAX cinema crowded around it. A full program of events is planned to keep things lively, including pop concerts, beer festival and big screen showings of sports events.

Manufaktura is visited by close on 20 million visitors a year and has become the new heart of the city. For the more languorous character two electric trams have also been added to ferry visitors from one end of the complex to the other. And in spite all of this Manufaktura remains very much a work in progress with new additions and changes happening all the time. The complex can boast a state of the art 4-star Andels hotel, a Museum of Art as well as the History of Łódź museum set in the palace of the former mill owner Izrael Poznański.



# WELCOME TO MANUFATURA!

COME TO ŁÓDŹ AND DISCOVER THE CITY'S MOST IMPRESSIVE  
BUILDING, WHICH PROUDLY REFLECTS THE CITY'S RICH HISTORY.



[www.manufaktura.com](http://www.manufaktura.com)

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This 19<sup>th</sup> century textile Factory has been transformed into  
a modern shopping mall,  
entertainment hub and cultural centre where visitors can  
enjoy a range of attractions - cinemas,  
museums and a variety of restaurants offering a wide range  
of cuisine which will satisfy even the most sophisticated  
palates.

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Get star struck at the Planetarium | Courtesy of Copernicus Science Center


## BIKE RENTAL

### WYGODNY ROWER

Grab a city bike or even electric bike to cruise around the city at this cafe/boutique/bike shop. An hour on a classic bike goes for 10zł, 2 hrs/18zł and 4 hrs/25 zł while a full day will cost 40zł and 24 hours 50zł. An electric is twice the price of regular bike rentals. All rentals require a returnable deposit of 200zł or 50 euros (400zł or 100 euro for electric bikes). ► H-7, ul. Smolna 10, tel. (+48) 787 38 63 86, [www.wygodnyrower.pl](http://www.wygodnyrower.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES

### FUN PARK DIGILOO

Situated not far from the city centre on the otherwise never ending ul. Puławska, Digiloo is a vast kid's paradise of themed activity rooms. Areas vary from a toddlers space for the under two's through to the main, jungle inspired activity area, a modern climbing wall and a laser paintball zone for budding young hitmen/women! Seven themed birthday rooms are also available for private hire. You may ask what the grown ups can do while the nippers are running riot under the watchful eye of the expert assistants? They can take-five in the prize winning cafe/restaurant with its home cooking style menu. ► H-16, ul. Merliniego 2,  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 508 80 07 73, [www.funparkdigiloo.pl](http://www.funparkdigiloo.pl). Open 10:00 - 20:00, Fri 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 09:00 - 20:00.

### SPIN CITY

Admission for bowling is 40-99zł per hour. Features a bowling alley, a bar with pool tables and darts and a video games area. ► ul. Powstańców Śląskich 126A (Cinema City, Bemowo), tel. (+48) 22 560 42 42, [www.spinicity.pl](http://www.spinicity.pl). Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00.

## GOLF

### GOLF PARKS POLAND

A six-hole course for 20zł per hour. There is also a driving range on site and it costs 25zł for 50 golf balls (3 golf club rental for 10zł). ► ul. Vogla 19 (Wilanów), tel. (+48) 22 424 70 83, [www.golfparkspoland.pl](http://www.golfparkspoland.pl). Open 08:00 - 22:00.

## HORSE RIDING

### ANKA RANCHO HORSE RIDING

► ul. Wawrzyniecka 25, Glinianka, tel. (+48) 602 30 48 61, [www.ankarancho.pl](http://www.ankarancho.pl). Open Sat, Sun only: 09:00 - 16:00. Phone reservation 2 days in advance. One hour horse riding 70zł.

### KLUB WIEJSKI WILCZENIEC

Horseback riding in the idyllic countryside outside Warsaw. English speaking instruction also available. ► ul. Kościelna Droga 10, Łomianki, tel. (+48) 22 751 97 77, [www.wilczeniec.pl](http://www.wilczeniec.pl). Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. 60zł/45 minutes of riding in a closed corral with assistance, 50zł/45 minutes riding outside the corral on your own on weekends (40zł/45 mins. during the week).

## INDOOR ATTRACTIONS

### FLYSPOT WARSAW INDOOR SKYDIVING

Do you believe you can fly? This futuristic adrenaline junky paradise has both a freefall simulator and a Boeing 737 flight simulator. Spread your wings! Prices: 249 zł for adults and 219 zł for kids 18 and under (price includes 2 flights in the freefall simulator/ 20 mins. in the Boeing). ► **Wspólna droga 1, Ożarów Mazowiecki, tel. (+48) 698 62 65 00, www.flyspot.com. Open 08:30 - 23:30.**

### HANGAR 646

A great place to literally jump around with masses of trampolines spread over nearly 3,000m<sup>2</sup>. Found in an old industrial area across the river from the old you'll also find drink and snacks available and lots of things to keep the kids happy. Also check out their new location at ul. Domaniewska 37A in Mokotów. ► **Wał Miedzeszyński 646, Warsaw, tel. (+48) 22 299 54 59, www.hangar646.pl. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Last entrance at 21:00.**

### ROOM ESCAPE

What better way to get to know your travelling companions, or perhaps strangers you met at a bar, than locking yourselves in a room with them and solving riddles, puzzles & mysteries while trying to escape! These are the biggest & most technologically advanced escape room adventures in Poland with two locations and four different rooms to choose from. Each room allows 2-5 people one hour to try and Escape. Also at Inżynierska 1. ► **G-10, ul. Śniadeckich 1/15, [M] Politechnika, tel. (+48) 503 96 60 12, www.roomescape.pl. Mon-Fri till 15:00 it's 150 zł. Mon-Fri after 15:00 + weekends it's 180 zł.**

### THE HEAVENS OF COPERNICUS

A trip to outer space is made simple at the Heavens of Copernicus planetarium, which is tucked behind the giant Copernicus Science Centre as its own distinct venue. Visitors can choose between seven different 40-minute films (which require headsets for English) that are geared towards different age ranges and interests. Inside the audience is immersed in the solar system thanks to a spherical screen that surrounds the 137 seats on all sides. Four digital projectors display images of the starry sky (we're talking 20 million points of light) and simulate space travel to bring planets and moons into view. Before each film is a 20-minute live show about the skies over Warsaw that changes with the seasons. School groups dominate the Planetarium's seats during daytime hours, and booking tickets in advance is highly recommended – when we dropped in only one of the numerous daily shows had available space. Fridays now feature "concerts under the stars," with live piano adding to the experience. A not-to-be-missed attraction. ► **H-5, ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20, [M] Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 22 596 41 00, www.niebokopernika.pl. Open 09:30 - 19:00, Thu 09:30 - 20:00, Fri 09:30 - 21:30, Sat 10:30 - 20:30, Sun 10:30 - 19:30; closed Mon. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 19-24zł/14-19zł, family ticket 52-67zł. [TC]**



Room Escape Warszawa

Katryniensis CC BY-SA 4.0

## PARKS

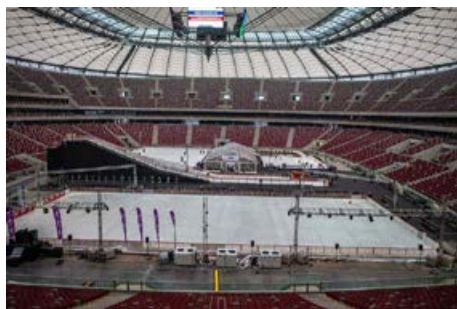
### ZOO

Opened in 1928, Warsaw Zoo covers an area of 40 hectares and attracts some 500,000 visitors each year. Four elephants, a family of seals and a lion were added to the current collection of reptiles, birds and tigers. Conditions have improved dramatically in recent years, though a visit here will do little to change any opinions you have on locking animals in cages. As with every major Warsaw landmark, the zoo has plenty of war stories. It was bombed at the beginning of the conflict and by 1945 all the animals had either been killed, deported to the Third Reich, eaten by locals or escaped into the wild. Zoo director, Jan Żabiński, became something of a hero; wounded during the 1944 Uprising, Żabiński helped save countless lives by sheltering Jewish orphans inside the grounds of the zoo. The zoo officially re-opened in 1949. ► **H-3, ul. Ratuszowa 1/3, [M] Dworzec Wileński, tel. (+48) 22 619 40 41, www.zoo.waw.pl. Open 09:00 - 15:30. Last entrance 1 hour before closing. Admission 15/10zł.**

## RACQUET SPORTS

### SQUASH CITY

Eight air-conditioned courts. A second location at Malborska 51-53 features six courts and admission is 40-60zł. ► **Al. Jerozolimskie 179 (CH Blue City, Ochota), tel. (+48) 22 499 64 66, www.squashcity.pl. Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. Admission 45-65zł.**



Ice Skating at the National Stadium



## ICE SKATING



Old Town Ice Skating

*Dorota Swiderska*

### NATIONAL STADIUM ICE RINK

During winter the National Stadium also serves as Poland's largest indoor ice skating complex. Divided into two sections with separate prices, Rink A is a traditional ice oval (admission 13/10zł during the week and 14/11zł on weekends), while Rink B is a double rink connected by an ice path and costs a little extra (15/12zł; weekends 16/13zł). Opening hours for both rinks are Mon-Thu 15:00 - 23:00; Fri 15:00 - 00:45; Sat, Sun 09:00 - 24:00 and both are open until March 1st. If you're up for a little more action on the ice make sure to visit Rink A late on Friday (23:00 - 00:15) and Saturday (22:15 - 23:30) for their disco skating nights with DJs, lights and production values. ► K-6, Al. Ks. J. Poniatowskiego 1, **M**Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 22 295 98 76, [www.zimowynarodowy.pl](http://www.zimowynarodowy.pl).

### OLD TOWN ICE RINK

After last year's success the Ice Rink is back on the Old Town Square. Skate around the Warsaw Mermaid statue and enjoy delicious street food from kiosks run by Warsaw restaurateurs. Admission is free of charge but you have to pay to rent skates. The rink is open through February. ► F-4, Rynek Starego Miasta, **M**Ratusz Arsenal. Open 10:00 - 21:00. Admission free.

### PKIN ICE RINK

New Yorkers sharpen their skates at Rockefeller Square, and those in Washington DC do their ice laps in the sculpture park of the National Gallery, so it's only natural that Varsovians would turn their triple salchows in the shadow of the Palace of Culture & Science. Ice time is free if you have your own skates; if not you can rent some for 10zł an hour or 5zł for 30 mins. The rink stays open as long as the weather stays cold (usually until the end of February) and bear in mind there is a break in the icy action between 13:00 - 14:00 and 17:00 - 18:00. ► E-7, Pl. Defilad 1, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 656 76 00, [www.pkin.pl](http://www.pkin.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00. Admission free.

### CITY SPORTS CLUB

They offer a variety of sports instruction and facility rental for tennis, swimming, golf, squash, dance, football, fencing and climbing walls. Tennis is perhaps the most popular with numerous courts available (40-70zł/per hour), lessons with an English-speaking instructor (60-160zł/per hour), equipment rental (by prior arrangement) and social lessons for expats. ► ul. Puławska 257/160, tel. (+48) 510 27 36 33, [www.citysportsclub.pl](http://www.citysportsclub.pl). Open 06:00 - 22:00.

## SPA & BEAUTY

### ALCHEMY DAY SPA

Pamper yourself at one of Warsaw's most established day spas. Alchemy offers a full range of beauty treatments and relaxation therapies using some of the finest natural products from around the globe. If the sterile, hospital-like look of many modern spas isn't your thing then this is the perfect place for you. The location itself, a 1920's town house apartment with a great sense of history, makes you feel relaxed and at home the moment you set foot in the door. Forget all the madness going on outside and just let the goodness wash over you! ► H-12, ul. Klonowa 20/1, **M**Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 849 32 56, [www.dayspa.pl](http://www.dayspa.pl). Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

### BODY & MIND BY HANKA KRASZCZYŃSKA

Slimming and toning treatments, as well as oriental massage and beauty products. Prices from 60-240zł. ► F-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 45 (Polonia Palace Hotel), **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 318 28 13, [www.poloniapalace.com/pl/spa-polonia-palace-hotel-warszawa.html](http://www.poloniapalace.com/pl/spa-polonia-palace-hotel-warszawa.html). Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00.

### DENTAL FRATERNITY CENTRUM STOMATOLOGII

Stop! Don't skim past this simply because you read the word 'Dental'. If you need to go, then go to a good one - and Dental Fraternity is beyond good. The elite team of specialists cover all areas of modern dentistry - from a simple clean up to complex surgery - via a whole host of procedures which would turn our short write-up into an encyclopedia of modern dentistry. The staff are experts in making you feel at ease and, best of all, will explain everything to you in English. With their relaxed and



Wesolandia



amiable atmosphere, Dental Fraternity have also built up quite a reputation as a great surgery to take the kids to, though getting them to go in the first place may be the tricky part! ► C-11, ul. Mochnickiego 10, tel. (+48) 22 789 93 10, [www.dentalfraternity.pl](http://www.dentalfraternity.pl). Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

### KLINIKA PIĘKNA ESSENCE

As the busy bees of Warsaw seek out more ways of feeling great, looking fabulous and eradicating the effects of increasingly stressful lifestyles, the beauty and spa industry is thriving. Essence is one of the newest luxury environments to help keep you buzzing away beautifully. A full list of treatments, spa rituals, medical procedures and an onsite hairdressing salon means that every part of you can be pampered to perfection. Classic traditional methods mix with some of the latest advances in beauty technology – including the rather gothic sounding ‘vampire lifting’, a procedure which actress Anna Friel and singer Danii Minogue swear by. ► F-9, ul. Hoża 43/49 lok.1,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 504 01 51 20/(+48) 22 625 49 43, [www.klinikaessence.pl](http://www.klinikaessence.pl). Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.



Get the In Your Pocket  
City Essentials App




### SUNGATE BEAUTY & SPA


The menu of services available at Sungate is staggering: from aesthetic medicine treatments and beauty medicines to facials, waxing, permanent makeup and every imaginable type of massage (shea butter to aromatherapy). They have you covered from head to foot! Package for couples, women and just regular folks who like to indulge are also available. ► G-7, Pl. Powstańców Warszawy 2,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 517 01 28 80, [www.spasungate.pl](http://www.spasungate.pl). Open 10:00 - 24:00.

## SWIMMING

### AQUAPARK WESOLANDIA

Includes a junior swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, slide, fitness centre. Length 25m, depth 1.1-1.8m. ► F-9, ul. Wspólna 4 (Wesoła),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 773 91 91, [www.wesolandia.pl](http://www.wesolandia.pl). Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 22:00. 12-20zł per hour. All day tickets 24-32zł. Fri-Sun family ticket is 9,90zł per person per hour or 18zł per person all day.

### WODNY PARK

Here's the best pool of the lot with facilities including saunas, steam rooms, snow cabins, solariums as well as loads of slides and other recreational facilities. Prices range from 20-26zł/12-20zł per hour. ► H-16, ul. Merliniego 4 (Mokotów),  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 22 854 01 30, [www.wodnypark.com.pl](http://www.wodnypark.com.pl). Open 06:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 06:30 - 22:00, (Spa open 11:00 - 22:00. Admission 27-42/20-35zł).

## THREE KINGS DAY



Courtesy of Three Kings' Day Procession ([www.warszawa.orszak.org](http://www.warszawa.orszak.org))

Photo by Krzysztof Jaszczak

The spirit of the holiday season is kept strong across the country until **January 6th** – Three Kings Day or ‘*Dzień Trzech Króli*’. A wholly Catholic holiday, Three Kings honours Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, the three wise men who visited Jesus at his birth. Celebrations range from small to grand but often include a parade welcoming the wise men, with characters passing out candy and children dressed in colours signifying Asia, Africa and Europe (the respective homelands of the wise men). Mass is also a compulsory part of the Three Kings holiday as well, with families picking up a piece of blessed chalk during the service that is taken home and used to write the year and the initials “KMB,” with a cross between each letter, above the front door. In some places this honour is reserved for a priest who visits during the holiday season, blessing the house for the coming year by inscribing the commonly seen ‘K + M + B 2016’ (for a small donation of course).

This tradition is said to protect the family from sickness and misfortune for the year. Fun is also had during the day's feast when a Three Kings cake is served with either an almond or coin baked inside. Whoever is fortunate enough to land the surprise slice is considered king (or queen) for the day and lucky for the rest of the year. If your cake – which varies by region and can be anything from sponge to fruitcake – is decorated with a crown the lucky almond-eater gets the honour of wearing it. An additional reason to celebrate: In 2011 Parliament officially restored the date as a non-working national public holiday in Poland for the first time since it was cancelled by the communists 50 years earlier, so there's no need to go work!

### 06.01 12:00 » THREE KINGS' DAY PROCESSION

A national work holiday in Poland, January 6th is marked by Three Kings Day processions in hundreds of cities across the country. In the capital, the 2017 procession starts at 12:00 with the Angelus prayer near Sigismund's Column on Plac Zamkowy, before winding its way through the Old Town to the live nativity scene on Plac Piłsudskiego.



One of your first sights upon exiting the train station? Warsaw's ultra-modern Złote Tarasy shopping mall (p. 128).

## ALCOHOL

Of course you didn't come to Poland just for the booze, but while you're here it'd be rude not to check out what the country has to offer. Primarily that means vodka, with the two most highly regarded clear Polish vodkas being Belvedere and Chopin. Find them in any alcohol store. Others to watch for include Żubrówka - that's the one with the blade of bison grass inside - krupnik, a sweet honey vodka, and wiśniówka, a sickly sweet cherry drink usually consumed after meals. Finally, check Goldwasser, a unique elixir characterised by the 22 karat gold flakes floating in it. Bottle shops are numerous in Poland, as common as cabbage, though the ones we list come guaranteed to have no tramps or underage teens.

### ALL AROUND WINE

Crates and crates and crates of wine sourced from Europe and the New World. Proprietor Robert Mielżyński is on a life mission to introduce quality wine to the denizens of Warsaw, and it's a passion that's very much in evidence. Also at ul. Czerska 12 (K-14). ► B-3, ul. Burakowska 5/7, **M**Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 838 82 27, [www.mielzynski.pl](http://www.mielzynski.pl). Open 11:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00.

### DEKANT WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

The praise has been rolling in since before Dekant even opened, with *Wine Spectator* magazine hailing the arrival of not just one of the best wine lists in Poland...but the world. Their over 500 vintages include bottles from La Rioja

Alta, Querciabella, Ronco del Gelso, Poggio di Sotto, Saint Cosme, and many more which their sommelier will be happy to show off. This is the premier oenophile experience in Warsaw, so why go elsewhere? Also Star Wines at ul. Narbutta 83 lok. U8 in Mokotów (E-14). ► H-6, ul. Zajączka 15, **M**Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 22 828 07 52, [www.dekant.com.pl](http://www.dekant.com.pl). Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00.


## AMBER & JEWELLERY

Vodka isn't the only golden nectar popular in Poland; the country is renowned for its amber and the craftsmen who handsomely shape the fossilised resin into unique and coveted pieces of jewellery. Come back from PL without bringing baby some Baltic Gold and you've booked yourself a stint in the doghouse. The best place to begin your search is the Old Town, which is filled with purveyors of amber baubles.


### ART GALLERY AMBER SILVER LINE

This gorgeous gallery specialises in luxury handcrafted jewellery of the amber variety. This is the flagship location of what is the largest and oldest Amber dealers in the City and even heads of State have been spotted procuring presents. Choose from pieces by Polish artisans and top designers, plus high quality jewellery made with other precious stones. ► F-4, Rynek Starego Miasta 9/11/13, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, [www.amberwarsaw.pl](http://www.amberwarsaw.pl). Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

## ART STUDIO JEWELLERY SCHUBERT

There's no end to the amber offerings you'll find near the Stary Rynek, and here's another. Helpful sales people and more forms of amber -- bracelets, earrings, pins, oh my! -- than you can imagine. ► F-4, ul. Piwna 12/14,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 635 29 38, [www.worldofamber.pl](http://www.worldofamber.pl). Open 09:00 - 20:00.

## GALERIA BURSZTYNEK

The Calka family have been in the amber business for two generations and their love of this gift of the Baltic coast makes Galeria Bursztynek the store to visit for stunning jewellery and artefacts, all produced in their own workshop. Not content with just selling you a unique souvenir from your trip to Warsaw they are also keen to educate customers about the history of amber, the craftsmanship involved in working the resin and its many uses throughout the ages. In order to do this, they have turned part of their glamorous Old Town emporium into a permanent and fascinating museum display. You can find the Old Town location at Rynek Starego Miasta 4/6. ► F-4, ul. Długa 8/14 lok.70,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 508 51 16 80, [www.bursztynek.co](http://www.bursztynek.co). Open 10:00 - 18:00.


## HOURL PASSION

This exclusive timepiece concept store has an extensive collection of Swiss watch brands including: Longines, Rado, Tissot, Certina, Calvin Klein, Swatch and Flik Flak. They offer premium multilingual customer service including after sales services and a minimum 2-year International Warranty on all timepieces. The bright and modern even includes a wi-fi so you can take your time finding the perfect piece. ► F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 104/122,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 551 44 44, [www.hourpassion.com](http://www.hourpassion.com). Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

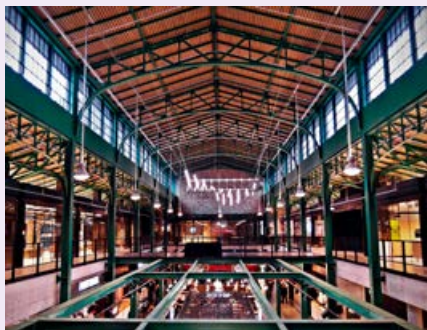
## LILOU

Phenomenally successful Polish jewellery chain where customers can select their own components and create a unique and personal piece. The range continues to grow, with the original idea of the personalised bracelet still the biggest seller. Choose a bracelet type and any number of simple silver or gold plated charms in a variety of shapes - hearts, dogs, cats and the likes, and then have it hand engraved with whatever or whoever means a lot to you. A 'must have' item amongst local celebs and fashionistas. Also at ul. Francuska 27. FYI - Their opening hours may be longer during the Holiday Season so check their FB page for the latest. ► H-9, ul. Mokotowska 63,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 506 19 08 97, [www.lilouparis.com/en](http://www.lilouparis.com/en). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 18:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00.

## W.KRUK

Polish jewellery, amber and watches from various international brand names including Emporio Armani, Rolex, Omega, Tag Heuer, Maurice Lacroix, Longines, Anne Klein. Watches only available at these locations: (H-8) Pl. Trzech Krzyży 8 and Pl. Konstytucji 6 (G-10). ► G-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 11/19,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 661 98 05 74, [www.wkruk.pl](http://www.wkruk.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

## HALA KOSZYKI



### NEW

From the outset **Hala Koszyki** has managed to raise the love and hate hackles of the city's 'out on the town' set. How many world cuisine eateries of various sizes can you squeeze into one space. Actually, fate may decide what you'll eat as it's almost impossible to get a table anywhere at most times of the day or night. Amazingly popular amongst the young and the beautiful, **Hala K** will probably remain **THE** place to be seen for some time to come - mainly because it's easy to be seen due to its open plan layout.

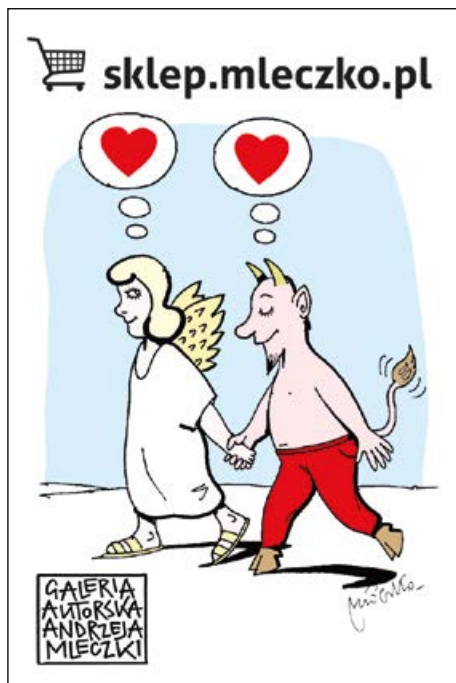
Top class little independent bistros sit uncomfortably next to some of Warsaw's chain restaurants. The market area towards the back of the building has some brilliant and difficult to find products on offer, but it has to be said that for all the talk of the market, in reality, it's small and plays second fiddle to the dining area.

For all the hustle and bustle of the ground floor level, take a peek at the ominously deserted basement level which is home to probably the quietest **Piotr i Paweł** supermarket and **Rossmann** store in town. Pop upstairs to level 1 for a bit of culture in the in-house **Modern Art Gallery**, check out the fascinating exhibition about the restoration of the original building or just take a few moments to stare at the kinetic light sculpture '**Big Dipper**' by Australian artist **Michael Candy**. This level is also home to a culinary school and a large glass fronted design studio.

Irrespective of one's thoughts on such a concept, the one thing that is absolutely mind blowing is the restoration and design work carried out by **JEMS Architects**. Their love of the original market hall - designed in the secessionist style by **Juliusz Dzierżanowski** in 1906-09 - is apparent in every last detail.

Even if you can't find a table at any of the cool eateries and bars, we urge you to spend some time taking in this stunning market hall. Don't forget to look up, down, sideways etc. as beautiful hidden details abound! ► F-10, ul. Koszykowa 63,  Politechnika, [www.koszyki.com](http://www.koszyki.com). Open 08:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 01:00.

# Shopping



## WORLD OF AMBER

This is truth in advertising at its best. World of Amber is, literally, a world filled with all things amber. Interested in a three-masted pirate ship made of amber? How about a goblet trimmed in amber? A glasses case? Beyond these unusual trinkets World of Amber also has the usual beads, rings, neck-breaking pendants and bracelets that are a must-have souvenir. The shop has a large number of knowledgeable staff, which means you're never left lingering over a glass case waiting in vain for service. Which we like even more than the chess set made entirely of amber. We swear. Also at ul. Świętojańska 14 (B-2), ul. Piwna 12/14 (B-2) and ul. Piwna 26 (B-2). ▶ F-4, ul. Świętojańska 11, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 831 16 00, [www.worldofamber.pl](http://www.worldofamber.pl). Open 09:00 - 20:00.

## ANTIQUES & ART GALLERIES

A walk through the streets of old and new town is usually enough to fulfil antiquarian designs, as will a short mooch along Mokotowska. However, anybody whose anybody will tell you the real treasures are found elsewhere, namely the excellent Bazar Na Kole, an open-air market where haggling and bargaining are considered de rigeur. For full details on that check Markets. If you're planning on taking an artwork out of the country, and it was produced prior to 1945, you will need authorisation to permit you to do so. Most shops will be able to provide you with this straight off the bat, but do check beforehand.

## ANDRZEJ MLECZKO GALLERY

These anti-establishment, often blasphemous, damn funny cartoons by Poland's favourite cartoonist Andrzej Mleczo are bound to remind you of someone you know (if you speak Polish, that is). Ideal for Polish friends and family, here you can buy original works, prints, mugs, shirts, board games, bedding sets and posters. ▶ F-6, ul. Marszałkowska 140, **M**Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 795 02 98 29, [www.sklep.mleczo.pl](http://www.sklep.mleczo.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

## LAPIDARIUM

We can (and probably have) spend hours at Lapidarium wandering the cluttered rooms filled with all manner of junk - - and we say that with love. Old uniforms, reproduction propaganda posters, busts of Lenin, ancient record players and even old farm equipment fights for your attention here. Give yourself time to wander and accumulate a weird selection for purchase. How to spot this place? Look for the antique bicycle and spindle sitting outside the entrance. ▶ F-4, ul. Nowomiejska 15/17, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 509 60 18 94, [www.lapidarium.pl](http://www.lapidarium.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

## WAWA BLABLA

It's been over ten years since Brit ex-pat Gilly Boelman-Burrows started wandering the streets of Warsaw, with camera in hand, photographing and documenting the city's street art and graffiti. The hobby turned obsession has grown from a Facebook page to a blog, a comprehensive book on the subject and now a great little shop on ul. Dobra. Alongside prints of her own photographs (from 30-250zł), the shop also stocks a constantly changing range of graphic works, unique pieces and editions by some of Warsaw's top underground artists, including NeSpoon, Proembion, Maniac and DK. A brilliant place to pick up an affordable artwork as an original memento from your visit to the city. ▶ I-6, ul. Dobra 15, **M**Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 601 63 50 06, [www.wawablaba.pl](http://www.wawablaba.pl). Open 11:00 - 17:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

JEWELLER **Schubert**  
MAESTRO AMONG JEWELLERS  
**WORLD OF AMBER**  
**WARSAW**  
11 Świętojańska St. 12/14 Piwna St.  
26 Piwna St.  
**CRACOW**  
13 Floriańska St. 22 Floriańska St.  
38 Grodzka St. 7 Powiśle St. (Sheraton Hotel)  
[www.worldofamber.pl](http://www.worldofamber.pl)



## Tax Free Shopping

As a traveler residing in a non-EU country you are entitled to claim back the VAT on your purchases when you bring them home.

You will find Global Blue Tax Free Shopping service in the major shops of Poland.

### For more details contact:

Global Blue Polska Sp. z o.o.  
Al. Jerozolimskie 123A, Warsaw  
Phone: +48 22 629 06 52  
e-mail: [taxfree.pl@globalblue.com](mailto:taxfree.pl@globalblue.com)  
[www.globalblue.com](http://www.globalblue.com)



## 1 GET IT

Once you've found that perfect item, remember to ask the shop staff for a Tax Free Form when you're paying for it.



## 2 STAMP IT

When you're leaving the country to head home or to continue your journey, take your purchases, receipt and passport to the customs desk to get your Tax Free Form stamped. If you're travelling on to another EU country, get the stamp on your Tax Free Form at your final point of departure from the EU.



## 3 REFUND

Finally, show your stamped Tax Free Form and passport to our staff at Global Blue Customer Services or one of our partner refund points and they'll issue your refund immediately.



Sign up for your free SHOP TAX FREE Card - [globalblue.com/join](http://globalblue.com/join)

## CHOCOLATIERS

Poland has a healthy and dangerous chocolate tradition. Here are a few of Warsaw's most decadently delicious den's of Chocolate indulgence. Drool over pristine cases of hand made bonbons, pralines, cakes fudges and even sip a cup hot cup of molten milk chocolate. My mamma always said that life is like a box of chocolates, so give the gift of life today.

### NEUHAUS PRALINES (NEUHAUS PRALINERIA)

The one and only shop in Poland which sells Neuhaus chocolates - the inventors of pralines. Neuhaus is an exclusive Belgian chocolatier which has been concocting cocoa creations since 1857. They use only the highest quality ingredients and the perfection of their confections is heralded by the Belgian royal family themselves as they are the official Chocolate suppliers of the Benelux royal courts. So go on then, treat yourself to some chocolates that are literally fit for a king. ► G-8, ul. Żurawia 26, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 508 99 84 10, [www.pralinaria.pl](http://www.pralinaria.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Fri 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

### ODETTE PASTRY SHOP

Odette is perhaps Warsaw's first boutique pastry workshop & cafe. The stylish interior invites you to indulge in their unique confectionery creations: cakes, cookies, chocolates and pralines. The professional pastry chefs walk a fine line between traditional Polish and European pastries and more

modern avant-garde. Their experiments are all in the noble cause of achieving confectionery perfection! Also visit their new location at ul. Twarda 2/4. ► G-7, ul. Górskiego 6/7, **M**Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 604 74 54 44, [www.odette.pl](http://www.odette.pl). Open 10:00 - 20:00, Mon 13:00 - 20:00.



### PIJALNIE CZEKOLADY WEDEL

A Polish legend that's been operating since Karol Wedel first opened a chocolate factory in 1851. Check the handmade pralines. Call ahead for reservations if interested in some of the more elaborate chocolate presentations and their daily workshops (Mon - Fri at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00). ► G-7, ul. Szpitalna 8, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 827 29 16, [www.wedelpijalnie.pl](http://www.wedelpijalnie.pl). Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00.

## FASHION & ACCESSORIES

The stylish denizens of Warsaw's streets are an easy indicator that fashion is important in the capital city. Trot out anything less than your best and it won't go unnoticed, we promise you. With the opening of dom handlowy VITKAC the city has seen the arrival of major labels like Gucci and Lanvin, and the Likus Concept Store is a reliable go-to for the latest designer offerings. Check out high quality Polish brands like Reserved, Vistula and Tatumu, all of which you'll undoubtedly find in Warsaw's shopping centres like Złote Tarasy and Arkadia.

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## FRIDGE BY YDE


Magdalena Beyer, the founder of Fridge, approached the natural cosmetics industry with a sceptical eye. Even Ecocert and BDIH certifications allow the use of certain synthetic substances, including preservatives and alcohol. She vowed to produce a range of 100% natural skin care products and niche perfumes. All the lush balms and creams have a shelf life of 2.5 months and need to be kept in a fridge, hence the company name. In stark contrast to the minimal and super-modern store, the majority of flowers and herbs used by Fridge come from their own beautiful gardens at Starzyński Dwór, the former home to an order of Cistercian monks dating back to the 13th century. ► H-7, ul. Mikołaja Kopernika 6 lok.1,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 127 91 04, [www.fridge.pl](http://www.fridge.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## LOVLEY

The charming district of Stary Żoliborz is home to the Warsaw based, independent womenswear label Lovley. Short run collections and unique pieces, using only the most luxurious materials from national and international suppliers. The owner approaches every customer individually and with her amazing eye for styling and fitting, discusses the needs of clients and advises on all aspects of the process in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. We also love the fact that the children's line features scaled down adult outfits from the collection and the recently introduced range of handmade leather bags. Considering the slightly

'off the beaten track' location of the boutique, they are rapidly building up a clientele via visitors to the city from all over the world - including a rather well known American singer whose name we are not at liberty to mention! ► ul. Mickiewicza 24,  Plac Wilsona, tel. (+48) 505 99 88 53, [www.lovley.pl](http://www.lovley.pl). Open 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

## MOLIERA 2

Exclusive two level boutique featuring collections by Barbajada, Celine, Chloe, Dior, Valentino, Christian Louboutin, Balmain, Herve Leger, Isabel Marant, Moncler Gamme Rouge, Buscemi, Aquazzura, Francesco Russo, Loro Piana, Alexandre Birman, Alameda Turquesa, Kenzo, Kiini, self-portrait, Simonetta Ravizza, Tod's, Beach Bunny, Anya Hindmarch, Ikkii, Yves Salomon, Jimmy Choo, Alexandre Vauthier, Victoria Beckham, Casadei, Gianvito Rossi, Kotur, One Teaspoon, Maison Michel and Ralph Lauren. ► F-5, ul. Moliera 2,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 827 70 99, [www.moliera2.com](http://www.moliera2.com). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00.

## PRACOWNIA PROJEKTOWA ANNA KRZYŻANOWSKA

It's now been a number of years since Anna Krzyżanowska packed in the office rat race in order to follow her passion for fashion. This was a bold and inspired move which has seen her couture creations become some of the most sought out designs in town. Visit her elegant showroom, housed in the glamorous Zamojski palace, to view the collection of reference pieces on display, arrange an initial consultation and decide whether to start the process of designing and creating a unique piece made especially for you. As well as womenswear for all occasions, the studio also offers a bespoke menswear service for the discerning gent. ► G-7, ul. Mikołaja Kopernika 13/1,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 500 16 29 24, [www.annakrzyzanowska.pl](http://www.annakrzyzanowska.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00; Sat, Sun open by prior arrangement.

## TFH KONCEPT

This one-time pop-up shop has set down roots in a snazzy new permanent location, which means you now know exactly where to find the city's hottest fashions. TFH's new boutique displays an impressive selection of stylish t-shirts, handbags and tops from a variety of young Polish and international designers as well as tasteful Warsaw-themed items like magnets and postcards. They also have paintings and graphics for sale from some of Poland's best up and coming artists plus frequent exhibitions and gallery openings. ► G-7, ul. Szpitalna 8,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 502 48 83 48, [www.tfhbutik.pl](http://www.tfhbutik.pl). Open 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00.

## FOOD & SWEETS

Food-wise Poland has plenty of edible delights that will tempt (or shock) your friends, from delicious sausages and preserves to jars of smalec (yep, that's spreadable lard for your bread). Dine in true Polish style long after you've leapt the border by bringing home traditional staples or any number of the hearty sweets that end every Polish meal.

## COŚ SŁODKIEGO

Having already run a successful online store for the past few years, the guys at Coś Słodkiego (Something Sweet) have bitten the jelly bullet and set up shop in the Muranów district of the city. A whole host of sweet and savoury US imported goodies line the shelves in this slick and modern looking candy store. All the old favourites - including Hershey bars, Reese's peanut butter cups and Life Savers - are available and guaranteed to turn grown-up American ex-pats and locals alike into giggling kids. Try the Bertie Bott's jelly beans, featuring such taste bud tingling flavours like earwax, booger and dirt and don't miss their new BBQ items! ▶ D-4, ul. Dzielna 1, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 511 31 15 58, [www.cosslodkiego.com.pl](http://www.cosslodkiego.com.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

## NAMASTE INDIA

Better known as one of Poland's best takeaways, Namaste also doubles as a bit of a grocery store with a small but decent line of products imported from Asia - including herbal shampoos, heat-and-eat curries, soft drinks and spices. Lots of spices. ▶ G-8, ul. Nowogrodzka 15, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 357 09 39, [www.namasteindia.pl](http://www.namasteindia.pl). Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00.

## SAM

If you're looking to stock up on fresh produce, roasted coffee beans, the best homemade breads and all the necessary staples for your kitchen you can do no better than SAM, which is tucked inside this restaurant/bakery near the University library. Organic and local is the name of the game, and it's always worthwhile to grab a meal before you lug your haul home. Also at Twarda 2/4. ▶ H-6, ul. Lipowa 7A, **M**Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 600 80 60 84, [www.sam.info.pl](http://www.sam.info.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00.

## GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

### BOLESŁAWIEC POTTERY

If you aren't familiar with Poland's famed folk pottery brand, don't leave the capital without introducing yourself. Hand-painted with traditional folk motifs and highly functional, this shop stocks plenty of brightly patterned ceramics and tableware that is sure to prove the perfect gift for anyone you know who has a kitchen. They even speak Italian! We can't get enough of it. ▶ D-7, ul. Prosta 2/14, **M**Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 624 84 08, [www.ceramicboleslawiec.com.pl](http://www.ceramicboleslawiec.com.pl). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

### CEPELIA

Your first stop for tacky souvenirs. Amongst the tat also find traditional Polish handicrafts: table cloths, ceramics, glass etc. Also at ul. Chmielna 8 (G-7). ▶ F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 99/101, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 628 77 57, [www.cepelia.pl](http://www.cepelia.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## POLISH VODKA



The Poles have been producing and drinking vodka since the early Middle Ages, distilling their skill into some of the best vodka blends available in the world. The two most highly regarded clear Polish vodka brands must be **Belvedere** and **Chopin**, both of which you'll find in any alcohol shop. But you won't find many tipplers throwing them back at the bar. While clear vodkas are generally reserved for weddings and mixed drinks, the real fun of Polish vodka sampling is the flavoured vodkas, the most popular of which we describe below.

### WIŚNIOŹKA

Undoubtedly the most common flavoured vodka, wiśniówka is cheap and cherry-flavoured. You'll see students and pensioners alike buying trays of it at the bar, as well as toothless tramps sharing a bottle in corners of tenement courtyards. A splash of grapefruit juice is often added to cut the sweetness of this bright red monogamy cure.

### ŻOŁĄDKOWA GORZKA

Due to its very name, which translates to something like 'Bitter Stomach Vodka,' Żołądkowa Gorzka gives even the most infirm of health an excuse to drink under the guise of its medicinal properties. An aged, amber-coloured vodka flavoured with herbs and spices, Żołądkowa is incredibly palatable and best enjoyed when sipped on ice.

### KRUPNIK

A sweet vodka made from honey and a multitude of herbs. Buy a bottle for Mum - drinking vodka doesn't get any easier than this. In winter, hot krupnik is a popular personal defroster with hot water, lemon and mulling spices added.

### ŻUBRÓWKA

One of Poland's most popular overseas vodka exports, Żubrówka has been produced in Eastern Poland since the 16th century. Flavoured with a type of grass specific to Białowieża Forest (a blade of which appears in each bottle), Żubrówka is faint yellow in colour, with a mild fragrance and taste of mown hay. Delightfully smooth as it is on its own, Żubrówka is most commonly combined with apple juice - a refreshing concoction called a 'tatanka.'

# Shopping



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## GIFTS AND SILVER BY NEPTUNEA

A weird little find selling decorative sea shells, minerals, fossils, silver jewellery, oriental furniture and exotic crafts. An absolute treasure, and a must visit if you're looking for a something a little unique. ► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 47/51,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 826 02 47, [www.giftsandsilver.pl](http://www.giftsandsilver.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

## ROCK SHOP


You know a city has made it when it gets a Hard Rock Cafe and is there anything which says 'I've been there' more than a Hard Rock Cafe t-shirt? Ahem. Pick up the 'Warsaw' one to add to your collection at the shop inside the HRC in the Żłote Tarasy development opposite the train station. ► E-8, ul. Żłota 59 (Żłote Tarasy),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl). Open 09:00 - 24:00.

## SOUVENIRCITY

Located in the winding streets of the Old Town, this modern gift shop is the ideal place to pick up a memento of your visit to Warsaw or to snap up a few shiny and very reasonably priced trinkets for 'them back home'. Fridge magnets, key rings, figurines, t-shirts and a whole host of other items emblazoned with the words 'Warsaw' or 'Polska' fill the store. They are also the only shop in the area to stock a great selection of products from the legendary Bolesławiec pottery (JPiI's papal pottery of choice) - you'll recognise the patterns as soon as you see them! ► F-4, ul. Świętojańska 23/25,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 185 58 98, [www.souvenir-city.pl](http://www.souvenir-city.pl). Open 09:00 - 21:00.

## SZYMAŃSKI BOUTIQUE


Szymański's specialises in high quality porcelain from many of Europe's most highly respected producers. Tableware, decorative items and collectables from companies like Rosenthal, Villeroy & Boch, Hurom, Iittala and Lladro are all represented in this fantastically well stocked shop. As a visitor to the city, we would point you in the direction of the AS Ćmielów collection of figurines and animals - faithful replicas of this famed Polish company's trend setting, semi-abstract designs of the 1950's and 1960's.

The shop is also happy to professionally pack and post your purchases if you're worried about taking such fragile items in your luggage. ► G-7, Pl. Powstańców Warszawy 2,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 828 38 98, [www.szymanski-boutique.pl](http://www.szymanski-boutique.pl). Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## MARKETS


Cheapskates rejoice, while the closure of 'The Russian Market' hit bargain hunters hard Warsaw still has a very decent spread of bazaars. While rumours of pickpockets are at times exaggerated, do nonetheless exercise a degree of vigilance while perusing the swag on show.

## ROLNICZY TARG DOBREGO JEDZENIA

Food, food and more food. Find fresh herbs and vegetables, cheeses, meats, eggs straight from the chicken and eco honey for sale. No definite closing hours as they stay open later if people are still hanging around. ► F-2, ul. Zakroczyńska 12,  Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 601 13 58 01, [www.kreglicy.pl](http://www.kreglicy.pl). Open 08:00 - 16:00 on Wednesdays.

## SHOPPING MALLS

### ARKADIA

If you can't find it in Arkadia, you probably never will. Covering a total area of 287,000 m<sup>2</sup> this five floor leviathan stands out as one of the biggest shopping malls in Central Europe, receiving approximately 45,000 - 70,000 visitors a day. For fashion there's Lacoste, Peek & Cloppenburg, Tommy Hilfiger, New Look and more, a giant Saturn store takes care of all your electronic needs, for foodstuffs there's Carrefour and the first Marks & Spencer in PL and foreign press available at Empik. Entertainment comes in the form of a 15-screen multiplex, and don't miss the Bierhalle microbrewery. Connected by 9 tram lines, 6 bus routes and with space for 4,000 vehicles. ► C-2, Al. Jana Pawła II 82,  Dworzec Gdański, tel. (+48) 22 323 67 67, [www.arkadia.com.pl](http://www.arkadia.com.pl). Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 21:00.

### FACTORY OUTLET URSUS

This outlet centre is preoccupied with fashion, offering top brand names at 30-70% discounts over other shopping malls. Recognisable names among the brands include Desigual, Adidas, Reserved, Etam, ASICS, United Colors of Benetton, Smyk, Empik, Rossmann, Vero Moda and many more. One of the only such outlet centres in Europe, you can access it by taking the SKM train from Śródmieście and getting off at SKM Ursus, or by catching bus 127 at Dworzec Centralny and switching to bus 194 or 716 at PKP Włochy. Your final destination will be Ursus-Ratusz. If you are traveling by car, you reach very quickly, taking the route S8 or Nowolazurowa street. ► Pl. Czerwca 1976r. 6 (Ursus), tel. (+48) 22 478 22 70, [www.ursus.factory.pl](http://www.ursus.factory.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.



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### FACTORY OUTLET ANNOPOL

FACTORY's second Warsaw location is a little bit out of town but that usually means the further you travel the bigger the discounts! This massive offprice outlet features brands like: Nike, Adidas, Smyk, Ecco, Empik, Guess, Wrangler, Pepe Jeans, Reserved, Mohito, New Balance, Tatuum, Lidia Kalita and more. To get there take Metro M1 from "Centrum" to "Marymont" and then change to bus 132 and then get off at the "Toruńska" bus stop (this stop is by request only so no napping). ► **ul. Annopol 2 (Białoleka), tel. (+48) 22 441 90 00, [www.factory.pl](http://www.factory.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.**

### PLAC UNII CITY SHOPPING

Plac Unii City Shopping is one of the newest shopping Malls and one of the best located as well. Just a few tram stops from the city centre will bring you to this modern three storey mall. Its relatively small size and elegant design make it easy to navigate its hallowed halls of commerce. The intuitive internal passages are an extension of streets converging on Plac Unii making it easy to access from any direction. With over fifty shops, restaurants, cafes and outlets including iSpot, Zara, Mohito, H&M and homegrown Polish cult megastore Supersam (open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00) you'll want to give yourself more than a few hours to explore every last corner. ► **G-12, ul. Puławska 2, [M] Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 204 04 99, [www.placunii.pl](http://www.placunii.pl). Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.**

### VITKAC

The giant glowing 'Gucci' sign will be your first hint that this isn't your typical shopping centre, and the heavy security is the second. Shoppers can find the popular Likus Concept Store on the main level of the sprawling structure while labels like Givenchy, Kenzo, Armani, Dsquared2, Alexander McQueen, Celine, Gucci, Burberry, Valentino and Yves Saint Laurent are spread over the remaining four levels of shopping space, with roughly three employees available for every browsing customer. The atmosphere is more museum than mall, but if you're looking to splurge on designer names then this is your headquarters (also visit their e-shop online). If maxing out your credit card works up an appetite be sure to head to Restauracja Concept 13, which offers sweeping city views in a modern, open-concept space. ► **G-8, ul. Bracka 9, [M] Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 310 73 13, [www.vitkac.com](http://www.vitkac.com). Open 11:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00.**

### ZŁOTE TARASY

Located next to the central train station in the heart of downtown Warsaw, the Złote Tarasy complex signals a bold shift away from the out-of-town malls found in Warsaw and features familiar stores like Marks & Spencer, Aldo, Victoria's Secret, Hugo Boss, TOPSHOP, Dorothy Perkins, Zara, Massimo Dutti plus the Warsaw flagship H&M and a new Skechers. For leisure visitors can work out at Jatomi Fitness or see a movie at the modern Cinemaplex. There are also over 30 restaurants and bars spread over 5 levels including Poland's first Hard Rock Café. The central architectural showpiece is a 10,000m glass dome, which fitted with a special mechanism to both filter sunrays and to stop snow from building up. ► **E-8, ul. Złota 59, [M] Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 222 22 00, [www.zlotetarasy.pl](http://www.zlotetarasy.pl). Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00.**



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► H-13, ul. Puławska 39,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 849 82 05, [www.apteka.jollymed.pl](http://www.apteka.jollymed.pl).

### APTEKA BEATA

► C-6, Al. Solidarności 149, tel. (+48) 22 620 08 18.


## BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

### AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

► E-7, Spektrum Tower, ul. Twarda 18,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 520 59 99, [www.amcham.pl](http://www.amcham.pl).

## CONFERENCE CENTRES

### PGE NARODOWY (THE NATIONAL STADIUM)


► K-6, Al. Ks. J. Poniatowskiego 1,  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 22 295 95 55, [www.pgenarodowy.pl](http://www.pgenarodowy.pl).

### SOUND GARDEN CONFERENCE CENTER

► D-7, ul. Żwirki i Wigury 18, tel. (+48) 22 279 14 11, [www.soundgardenhotel.pl](http://www.soundgardenhotel.pl).

## CONSULATES & EMBASSIES


### AUSTRALIA

► G-8, ul. Nowogrodzka 11,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 521 34 44, [www.australia.pl](http://www.australia.pl).

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE



Currency exchange offices ('Kantor') are easy to find in Warsaw, but as with any international destination, it's imperative to check the rates to ensure you aren't getting fleeced. The general rule is you should never change your money at city entry points, particularly at the airport where the rates are almost criminal. To help put your mind and your wallet at ease, we've assembled a list of well-located exchange offices that won't rip you off, and don't take a commission.

**AUREX** ► G-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 33,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 626 92 60. Open 24 hrs.

**KANTOR** ► E-8, Złota Tarasy, ul. Złota 59 (level 0). Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00.


### AUSTRIA

► I-13, ul. Gagarina 34,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 841 00 81, [www.ambasadaaustrii.pl](http://www.ambasadaaustrii.pl).

### CANADA

► H-9, ul. Matejki 1/5,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 584 31 00, [www.canada.pl](http://www.canada.pl).


### FRANCE

► H-9, ul. Piękna 1,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 529 30 00, [www.ambafrance-pl.org](http://www.ambafrance-pl.org).


### GERMANY

► H-10, ul. Jazdów 12,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 584 17 00, [www.warszawa.diplo.de](http://www.warszawa.diplo.de).


### IRELAND

► G-8, ul. Mysia 5,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 849 66 33, [www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/poland](http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/poland).


### ISRAEL

► E-11, ul. Krzywickiego 24,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 597 05 00, [www.israel.pl](http://www.israel.pl).

### ITALY

► F-6, Pl. Dąbrowskiego 6,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 826 34 71, [www.ambvarsavia.esteri.it](http://www.ambvarsavia.esteri.it).

### LITHUANIA

► H-9, Al. Ujazdowskie 14,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 625 33 68, [pl.mfa.lt](http://pl.mfa.lt).


### NETHERLANDS

► J-11, ul. Kawalerii 10, tel. (+48) 22 559 12 00, [www.nlembassy.pl](http://www.nlembassy.pl).


### NORWAY

► G-4, ul. Chopina 2A,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 696 40 30, [www.amb-norwegia.pl](http://www.amb-norwegia.pl).

### RUSSIA

► H-12, ul. Belwederska 49,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 621 34 53, [www.poland.mid.ru](http://www.poland.mid.ru).

### SPAIN


► J-11, ul. Myśliwiecka 4,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 583 40 00, [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es).

### SWEDEN

► H-12, ul. Bagatela 3,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 640 89 00, [www.swedenabroad.com/warsaw](http://www.swedenabroad.com/warsaw).

### UNITED KINGDOM

► J-11, ul. Kawalerii 12, tel. (+48) 22 311 00 00, [www.gov.uk/government/world/poland](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/poland).

**USA** ► H-9, Al. Ujazdowskie 29/31 (entrance from ul. Piękna 12),  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 504 20 00, [poland.usembassy.gov](http://poland.usembassy.gov).



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## DENTISTS

**CCS LUDNA** ▶ I-8, ul. Ludna 10A,  Centrum Nauki Kopernik, tel. (+48) 22 625 01 02, [www.ccsludna.pl](http://www.ccsludna.pl).

**DENTALUX** ▶ B-15, ul. Raclawicka 131, tel. (+48) 22 823 72 22, [www.dentalux.pl](http://www.dentalux.pl).

## EMERGENCY ROOMS

### CENTRALNY SZPITAL KLINICZNY MSW

▶ E-15, ul. Wołoska 137,  Raclawicka, tel. (+48) 22 508 15 10, [www.cskmswia.pl](http://www.cskmswia.pl).

### SZPITAL KLINICZNY DZIECIĄTKA JEZUS


▶ D-9, ul. Lindleya 4, tel. (+48) 22 502 20 00, [www.dzieciatkajezus.pl](http://www.dzieciatkajezus.pl).

## EX-PAT ORGANIZATIONS

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP OF WARSAW

▶ F-8, ul. Chmielna 32, [www.iwgwarsaw.eu](http://www.iwgwarsaw.eu).

## GENEALOGY

**NATIONAL ARCHIVE** ▶ F-4, ul. Krzywe Koło 7,  Ratusz Arsenal, tel. (+48) 22 635 92 68, [www.warszawa.ap.gov.pl](http://www.warszawa.ap.gov.pl).

**REGISTRY OFFICE** ▶ E-5, ul. gen. Wł. Andersa 5, tel. (+48) 22 443 12 30, [www.um.warszawa.pl](http://www.um.warszawa.pl).

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

### AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW

▶ ul. Warszawska 202, Konstancja-Jeziorna, tel. (+48) 22 702 85 00, [www.aswarsaw.org](http://www.aswarsaw.org).

### CAMERAL BILINGUAL ENGLISH-POLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Based down in a leafy part of the Włochy district, this is a school serving children of various ages which teaches in Polish and English with the aim of giving its children a sound foundation in both languages. Lessons are given in both languages with the classes in English using Canadian and British materials. Take a look at the website for more information. ▶ ul. Globusowa 38, tel. (+48) 887 80 82 66/ (+48) 22 632 16 67, [www.vancouverschools.pl](http://www.vancouverschools.pl).

### ECOLE ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

▶ ul. Nobla 16 (Praga Południe), tel. (+48) 22 616 14 99, [www.saint-exupery.pl](http://www.saint-exupery.pl).

### INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN SCHOOL

▶ ul. Dembego 18 (Ursynów), tel. (+48) 22 649 14 40, [www.ias.edu.pl](http://www.ias.edu.pl).

### INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN SCHOOL

▶ ul. Wiertnicza 140 (Wilanów), tel. (+48) 22 842 44 48, [www.ies-warsaw.pl](http://www.ies-warsaw.pl).

## PRE-SCHOOL THREE LANGUAGES

A tri-lingual (English, Polish plus Spanish, Chinese or French) pre-school that focuses on linguistic development and cultural understanding. The staff is made up of only native speakers, and the school caters to children up to age 6. ▶ G-5, ul. Karowa 14/16 lok 6 and 2, tel. (+48) 503 07 21 19, [www.3languages.pl](http://www.3languages.pl).

**THE BRITISH SCHOOL** ▶ ul. Limanowskiego 15 (Mokotów), tel. (+48) 22 842 32 81, [www.thebritishschool.pl](http://www.thebritishschool.pl).

## THE ENGLISH PLAYHOUSE

▶ ul. Płyckwarska 14A (Mokotów), tel. (+48) 22 843 93 70, [www.theenglishplayhouse.com](http://www.theenglishplayhouse.com).

## THE INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL OF WARSAW

▶ ul. Kalatówki 24, tel. (+48) 22 843 09 64, [www.ipw.edu.pl](http://www.ipw.edu.pl).

## INTERNET CAFES


### CYBER CAFE

▶ ul. Zwirki i Wigury 1 (Courtyard by Marriott), tel. (+48) 22 650 01 72, [www.courtyardwarsawairport.com](http://www.courtyardwarsawairport.com). Open 08:00 - 23:00.

## LANGUAGE SCHOOLS


**EDU&MORE** ▶ F-9, ul. Nowogrodzka 44 lok.7,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 622 14 41, [www.polishonlinenow.com](http://www.polishonlinenow.com).


## THE CENTRE FOR POLISH STUDIES

▶ E-7, pl. Grzybowski 10/25,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 826 19 04, [www.learnpolish.edu.pl](http://www.learnpolish.edu.pl).

## POST OFFICES

### POCZTA POLSKA


Central Post Office. ▶ F-7, ul. Świętokrzyska 31/33,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 505 32 18, [www.poczta-polska.pl](http://www.poczta-polska.pl). Open 24hrs.

**POCZTA POLSKA** ▶ H-8, Pl. Trzech Krzyży 13,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 629 81 67, [www.poczta-polska.pl](http://www.poczta-polska.pl). Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun.


## PRIVATE CLINICS

### CAROLINA MEDICAL CENTER

▶ H-7, ul. Pory 78, tel. (+48) 22 355 82 00, [www.carolina.pl](http://www.carolina.pl).

**DAMIAN HOSPITAL** ▶ H-7, ul. Foksal 3/5,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 566 22 22, [www.damian.pl](http://www.damian.pl).





### LUX-MED

Also at ul. Domaniewska 41B, ul. 17 Stycznia 49, Al. Jana Pawła II 78 (C-3) and ul. Bobrowiecka 1 (K-15). ▶ E-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79 (Marriott Hotel),  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 332 28 88, [www.luxmed.pl](http://www.luxmed.pl).

## REAL ESTATE

### NEW

#### COSMOPOLITAN APARTMENTS

If you're considering investing in property in Warsaw and are looking for something luxuriously extravagant, then an apartment in the Helmut Jahn designed Cosmopolitan building may be right up your street. Situated on the edge of smart Plac Grzybowski, this 44 storey and 160m high masterpiece is one of the city's coolest modern landmarks. The 236 apartments range from 54 - 380 sq m and all come fitted out to the highest standards. The ground floor is home to some top class eateries and shops, levels 1 to 3 are given over to commercial /office space and the residential levels reach skywards from level 8. The building even has its own gallery and cultural centre on the 42nd floor. ► D-8, ul. Twarda 4, **M**Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 535 10 10 10, [www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl](http://www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl).     

#### KNIGHT FRANK

► G-9, ul. Mokotowska 49, **M**Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 596 50 50, [www.knightfrank.com.pl](http://www.knightfrank.com.pl).

#### LOCO REAL ESTATE AGENCY

► D-8, ul. Sienna 72 lok. 14, **M**Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 515 00 01 45, [www.n-loco.com](http://www.n-loco.com).

**TERRANUM** ► D-7, ul. Krochmalna 32, **M**Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 662 65 69 30, [www.terranum.pl](http://www.terranum.pl).

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

#### ST PAUL'S ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLIC PARISH

English-language mass held each Sunday at 12:00. English confessions from 17:00 - 18:00 on Saturday and 11:00 - 12:00 on Sunday. ► D-6, Al. Solidarności 80, **M**Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 600 38 49 16, [www.warsawcatholics.pl](http://www.warsawcatholics.pl).

## RELOCATION COMPANIES

#### AGS WORLDWIDE MOVERS

► ul. Julianowska 37, Piaseczno, tel. (+48) 22 702 10 72, [www.agsmovers.com](http://www.agsmovers.com).

#### MOVE ONE RELOCATIONS

► E-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 81 69, [www.moveoneinc.com](http://www.moveoneinc.com).

#### PRO RELOCATION

► E-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79, **M**Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 61 00, [www.prerelo.com](http://www.prerelo.com).

## TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

#### AGENCJA MAART

► C-3, ul. Kopernika 3, tel. (+48) 22 480 88 00, [www.maart.com](http://www.maart.com).

## DISCO POLO!



Fanatic band

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No, it's not an equestrian sport involving bell-bottomed jockeys (good guess, though), Disco Polo is a rather peculiar and uniquely Polish sub-genre of dance music. In fact you may have already been exposed to it without even realising it. It could have been blaring from a suped-up Fiat Duze rolling by, pulsing from a radio in a Żabka convenience store or been the soundtrack to that local wedding you attended a few months back.

This cult genre first emerged in the early 90's as folk musicians and wedding bands finally were able to upgrade their antiquated audio gear and buy some shiny new keyboards with built in drum machines (and 70's disco presets). By mixing a little Italo Disco (read: Eurotrash Techno) into their Casiotone folk-anthems, a music revolution was born. Disco Polo quickly conquered every wedding hall, village disco and nightclub throughout the land. By 1995 there were Disco Polo programmes on every major radio and television station and even former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski used a Disco Polo song during his presidential campaign that year. Times were good and Disco Polo labels like Blue Star and 'bands' such as Bayer Full, Boys and Shazza were pumping out the hits and rolling in the zloties. But alas, the good times couldn't last forever.

Disco Polo was scoffed at from the very beginning by the likes of intellectuals, music critics and professional musicians who viewed it as hokey and primitive (which it was/is). The tide began to turn for the genre as a whole when a few scandals involving disco polo artists and local mafia bosses started to make headlines in '96 and '97. These scandals coincided with a huge drop in cassette and CD sales. By the late 90's the wedding party was officially over and the long national hangover had begun. Public opinion and the mainstream media quickly turned and openly derided and lampooned the jovial genre.








Nowadays, the Disco Polo genre is about as respected as Country & Western or Smooth Jazz. Nonetheless, Disco Polo artists continue to break album sales records and tour regularly despite being the butt of almost every musical joke. The truth is, while it's been officially cool to make fun of Disco Polo for the better part of a decade, it's every red-blooded Pole's guilty pleasure.













Hotel Bristol Warsaw

## CREAM OF THE CROP

### BELLOTTOTEL

► F-5, ul. Senatorska 13/15,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 829 64 44, [www.hotelbellotto.pl](http://www.hotelbellotto.pl). 20 rooms (1 single, 15 doubles, 4 apartments).       ★★★★★









### HILTON WARSAW HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE

► C-7, ul. Grzybowska 63,  Rondo Daszyńskiego, tel. (+48) 22 356 55 55, [www.warsaw.hilton.com](http://www.warsaw.hilton.com). 314 rooms (303 singles, 303 doubles, 10 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite).          ★★★★★

## SYMBOL KEY

 Air conditioning	 Credit cards not accepted
 Fitness centre	 Conference facilities
 Restaurant	 Facilities for the disabled
 Sauna	 Guarded parking on site
 Animal friendly	 Wellness
 Swimming pool	 Smoking rooms available
 WarsawPass tourist discount card	








### HOTEL BRISTOL WARSAW

► G-5, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 551 10 00, [www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl](http://www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl). 206 rooms (168 singles, 168 doubles, 37 apartments, 1 Paderewski Suite).        ★★★★★









### INTERCONTINENTAL

► E-8, ul. Emili Plater 49,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 328 88 88, [www.warsaw.intercontinental.com](http://www.warsaw.intercontinental.com). 414 rooms (336 singles, 336 doubles, 76 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite).        ★★★★★

### MAMAISSON HOTEL LE REGINA WARSAW

► F-3, ul. Kościelna 12,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 531 60 00, [www.mamaison.com](http://www.mamaison.com). 61 rooms (58 singles, 58 doubles, 1 Penthouse, 1 Le Regina Suite, 1 Presidential Suite).        ★★★★★

### MARRIOTT

► E-9, Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 630 63 06, [www.warsawmarriott.com](http://www.warsawmarriott.com). 523 rooms (428 singles, 427 doubles, 31 suites, 60 apartments, 3 Vice Presidential Suite, 1 Presidential Suite).        ★★★★★

### REGENT WARSAW HOTEL




► I-13, ul. Belwederska 23,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 558 12 34, [www.regent-warsaw.com](http://www.regent-warsaw.com). 246 rooms (88 singles, 129 doubles, 17 suites, 1 Diplomatic Suite, 1 Presidential Suite).        ★★★★★



**RIALTO**

► F-10, ul. Wilcza 73,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 584 87 00, [www.rialto.pl](http://www.rialto.pl). 44 rooms (6 singles, 27 doubles, 11 apartments).      ★★★★★







**SHERATON WARSAW HOTEL**

► H-9, ul. Prusa 2,  Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 450 61 00, [www.sheraton.pl/en](http://www.sheraton.pl/en). 350 rooms (326 singles, 326 doubles, 18 suites, 5 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite).      ★★★★★







**SOFITEL WARSAW VICTORIA**

► F-6, ul. Królewska 11,  Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 657 80 11, [www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com](http://www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com). 350 rooms (160 singles, 170 doubles, 59 apartments, 1 Presidential Suite).      ★★★★★







**THE WESTIN WARSAW HOTEL**

► D-7, Al. Jana Pawła II 21,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 450 80 00, [www.westin.pl/en](http://www.westin.pl/en). 361 rooms (345 singles, 345 doubles, 15 suites, 1 Presidential Suite).      ★★★★★







**UPMARKET****MERCURE WARSZAWA CENTRUM**

► E-8, ul. Złota 48/54,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 697 39 99, [www.mercure.com](http://www.mercure.com). 338 rooms (23 singles, 303 doubles, 12 suites).      ★★★★★







**MERCURE WARSZAWA GRAND**

► G-9, ul. Krucza 28,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 583 21 00, [www.mercure.com](http://www.mercure.com). 299 rooms (86 singles, 207 doubles, 6 apartments).      ★★★★★







**NOVOTEL WARSZAWA CENTRUM**

► F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 94/98,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 596 00 00, [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com). 742 rooms (50 singles, 679 doubles, 12 suites, 1 apartment).      ★★★★★







**POLONIA PALACE HOTEL**

► F-8, Al. Jerozolimskie 45,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 318 28 00, [www.poloniapalace.com](http://www.poloniapalace.com). 206 rooms (198 singles, 198 doubles, 7 suites, 1 apartment).      ★★★★★







**RADISSON BLU CENTRUM HOTEL**

► E-7, ul. Grzybowska 24,  Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 22 321 88 88, [www.radissonblu.com/hotel-warsaw](http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-warsaw). 312 rooms (284 singles, 284 doubles, 27 apartments, 1 Presidential Apartment).      ★★★★★

**RADISSON BLU SOBIESKI HOTEL**

► C-9, Pl. Zawiszy 1,  Rondo Daszyńskiego, tel. (+48) 22 579 10 00, [www.radissonblu.com/sobieski-warsaw](http://www.radissonblu.com/sobieski-warsaw). 452 rooms (422 singles, 422 doubles, 29 apartments, 1 Royal Suite).      ★★★★★

**MID-RANGE****BEST WESTERN HOTEL FELIX**

► ul. Omulewska 24 (Praga Południe),  Stadion Narodowy, tel. (+48) 22 210 70 00, [www.bwfelix.pl](http://www.bwfelix.pl). 228 rooms (96 singles, 121 doubles, 5 triples, 3 suites).      ★★★







**BEST WESTERN HOTEL PORTOS**

► H-7, ul. Mangalia 3A,  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 22 207 60 00, [www.bwportos.pl](http://www.bwportos.pl). 230 rooms (230 singles, 156 doubles, 8 suites).      ★★★







**CAMPANILE**

► C-9, ul. Towarowa 2,  Rondo Daszyńskiego, tel. (+48) 22 582 72 00, [www.campanile.com.pl](http://www.campanile.com.pl). 194 rooms (194 singles, 194 doubles).      ★★★

**CASTLE INN**

► G-4, ul. Świętojańska 2 (entrance from Pl. Zamkowy),  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 425 01 00, [www.castleinn.pl](http://www.castleinn.pl). 22 rooms (3 singles, 18 doubles, 1 triple).     







**GOLDEN TULIP WARSAW CENTRE**

► C-9, ul. Towarowa 2,  Rondo Daszyńskiego, tel. (+48) 22 582 75 00, [www.goldentulipwarsawcentre.com](http://www.goldentulipwarsawcentre.com). 143 rooms (142 singles, 142 doubles, 1 apartment).      ★★★★★







**IBIS WARSZAWA CENTRUM**

► B-6, Al. Solidarności 165,  Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 22 520 30 00, [www.hotelibis.com](http://www.hotelibis.com). 180 rooms (180 singles, 180 doubles).      ★★







**MDM**

► G-10, Pl. Konstytucji 1,  Politechnika, tel. (+48) 22 339 16 00, [www.hotelmdm.com.pl](http://www.hotelmdm.com.pl). 134 rooms (21 singles, 108 doubles, 5 suites).      ★★







**METROPOL**

► F-8, ul. Marszałkowska 99A,  Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 325 31 00, [www.hotelmetropol.com.pl](http://www.hotelmetropol.com.pl). 210 rooms (177 singles, 193 doubles, 17 suites).      ★★

**BUDGET****START HOTEL ARAMIS**

► H-7, ul. Mangalia 3B,  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 22 207 80 00, [www.hotelaramis.pl](http://www.hotelaramis.pl). 233 rooms (232 singles, 93 doubles, 139 triples).      ★

**START HOTEL ATOS**

► H-7, ul. Mangalia 1,  Wierzbno, tel. (+48) 22 207 70 00, [www.hotelatos.pl](http://www.hotelatos.pl). 231 rooms (231 singles, 106 doubles, 109 triples).      ★★



[youtube.com/inyourpocket](https://youtube.com/inyourpocket)

## MEET THE CONCIERGE



Warsaw, despite the cold winter season, still has so much to offer to guests coming to explore the city and as well as the chance to warm up with a glass of hot wine, hot beer or hot chocolate you should not miss experiencing a few events and spots, which will contribute to you having an unforgettable

time in the city.

First of all, don't miss the opportunity to try some winter sports at the National Stadium (Zimowy Narodowy). Already in its fourth year, one of the biggest stadiums in Europe is transformed into a huge snowy village with almost 5000 square meters of ice – 3 huge ice rinks, a winter slope, a chillout zone and a food court. Apart from the ice skating you can also test your curling skills as well as go on the skatepark. It will be open until 5th March 2017 and you can find more details about the opening hours and prices at [www.zimowynarodowy.pl](http://www.zimowynarodowy.pl).

December 3 (17:00) sees the launch of the Warsaw Christmas lights, which will see the lighting of thousands of multi-coloured lights on Christmas trees along the Royal Route. It all starts with a big concert next to the Royal Castle where Santa Claus will appear on stage with his little helpers – elves and other fairytale characters. The illumination of the Christmas tree will be the culmination of the evening. Also, don't miss the Christmas markets in the city – the biggest one is usually located along the wall around the Old Town.

There are special evenings planned at the Wilanów Palace, when the facade of the palace will be changed completely as the characteristic yellow face of the palace will be illuminated with a 3-D show combining lights, pictures and the wonderful sound of baroque music. During the winter shows are held every Saturday and Sunday (apart from Christmas Day and New Year's Day) at 17:30, 18:30, 19:30 and 20:30 and it's definitely worth a visit. Outside of these times you can still visit the beautifully illuminated gardens where the Royal Garden of Light festival is taking place. For more information please go to the official website of the palace at [www.wilanow-palac.pl](http://www.wilanow-palac.pl)

If you need more recommendations to help make your stay in our remarkable city at this special festive time even better, please contact the concierge in your hotel. We will be more than happy to assist you in planning your stay. We will also ensure that your visit to Warsaw is unforgettable, so that you will want to return soon to draw from the spirit of the city again.

*Michał Borowiak*

*Head Concierge at Hotel Bristol, a Luxury Collection Hotel,  
Warsaw*

*Member of Les Clefs d'Or since 2010*

## APARTMENTS

**AMBASADA APARTMENTS** ▶ H-7, ul. Foksal 1, Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 826 52 04, [www.apartmentsambasada.com](http://www.apartmentsambasada.com). 6 rooms (6 apartments).

**COSMOPOLITAN APARTMENTS** ▶ D-8, ul. Twarda 4, Rondo ONZ, tel. (+48) 535 10 10 10, [www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl](http://www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl).

**P&O APARTMENTS** ▶ F-4, ul. Miodowa 12, Ratusz Arsenał, tel. (+48) 513 10 33 41, [www.pandoapartments.com.pl](http://www.pandoapartments.com.pl). 120 rooms (120 apartments).

**RESIDENCE ST. ANDREW'S PALACE** ▶ F-8, ul. Chmielna 30, Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 826 46 40, [www.residenceandrews.pl](http://www.residenceandrews.pl). 24 rooms (24 apartments).

**ROOMMATE APARTMENTS** ▶ H-9, ul. Wilcza 6/10, Centrum, tel. (+48) 608 38 86 71, [www.myroommate.pl](http://www.myroommate.pl). 22 rooms (22 apartments).

## HOSTELS

**KROKODYL** ▶ ul. Czapelska 24 (Praga Południe), Centrum, tel. (+48) 22 810 11 18, [www.hostelkrokodyl.pl](http://www.hostelkrokodyl.pl). 21 rooms (8 doubles, 90 dorm beds).

**MOON** ▶ G-7, ul. Foksal 16, Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 505 50 55 90, [www.moonhostel.pl](http://www.moonhostel.pl). 26 rooms (6 singles, 13 doubles, 6 triples, 1 quad, 3 Five-person room, 1 Six-person room, 1 Eight-person room).

**NEW WORLD ST. HOSTEL** ▶ G-7, ul. Nowy Świat 27, Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet, tel. (+48) 22 828 12 82, [www.nws-hostel.pl](http://www.nws-hostel.pl). 6 rooms (2 singles, 2 doubles, 30 dorm beds).

**OKI DOKI** ▶ F-7, Pl. Dąbrowskiego 3, Świętokrzyska, tel. (+48) 22 828 01 22, [www.okidoki.pl](http://www.okidoki.pl). 37 rooms (1 single, 14 doubles, 2 triples, 8 quads, 150 dorm beds).

## AIRPORT HOTELS

**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT WARSAW AIRPORT**  
▶ ul. Żwirki i Wigury 1 (Airport), tel. (+48) 22 650 01 00, [www.courtyardwarsawairport.com](http://www.courtyardwarsawairport.com). 236 rooms (113 singles, 121 doubles, 2 apartments).   
 ★★★★★

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS WARSAW AIRPORT** ▶ ul. Poleczki 31 (Ursynów), tel. (+48) 22 373 37 00, [www.hiex-wa.com](http://www.hiex-wa.com). 124 rooms (124 singles, 124 doubles). ★★★★★

## SOUND GARDEN HOTEL

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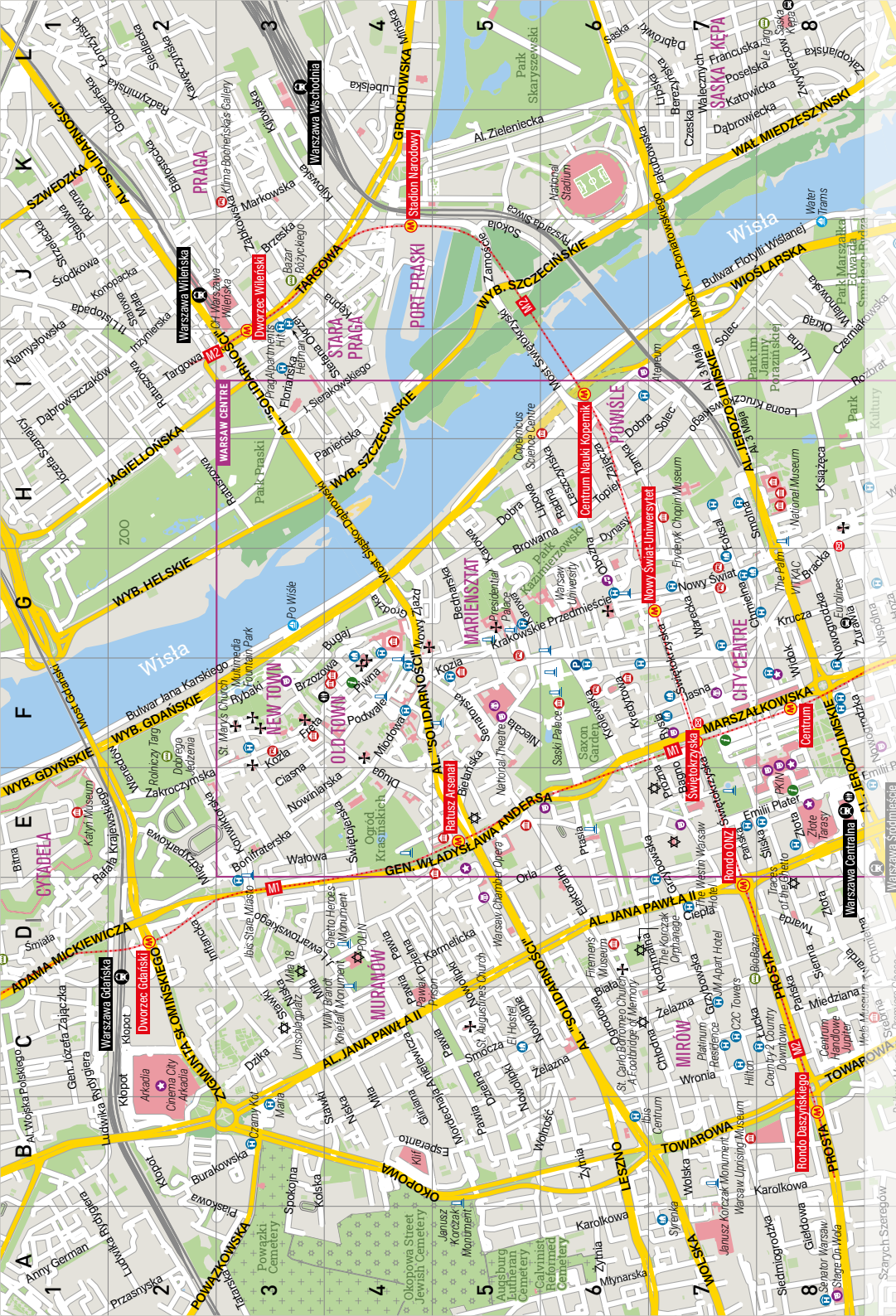
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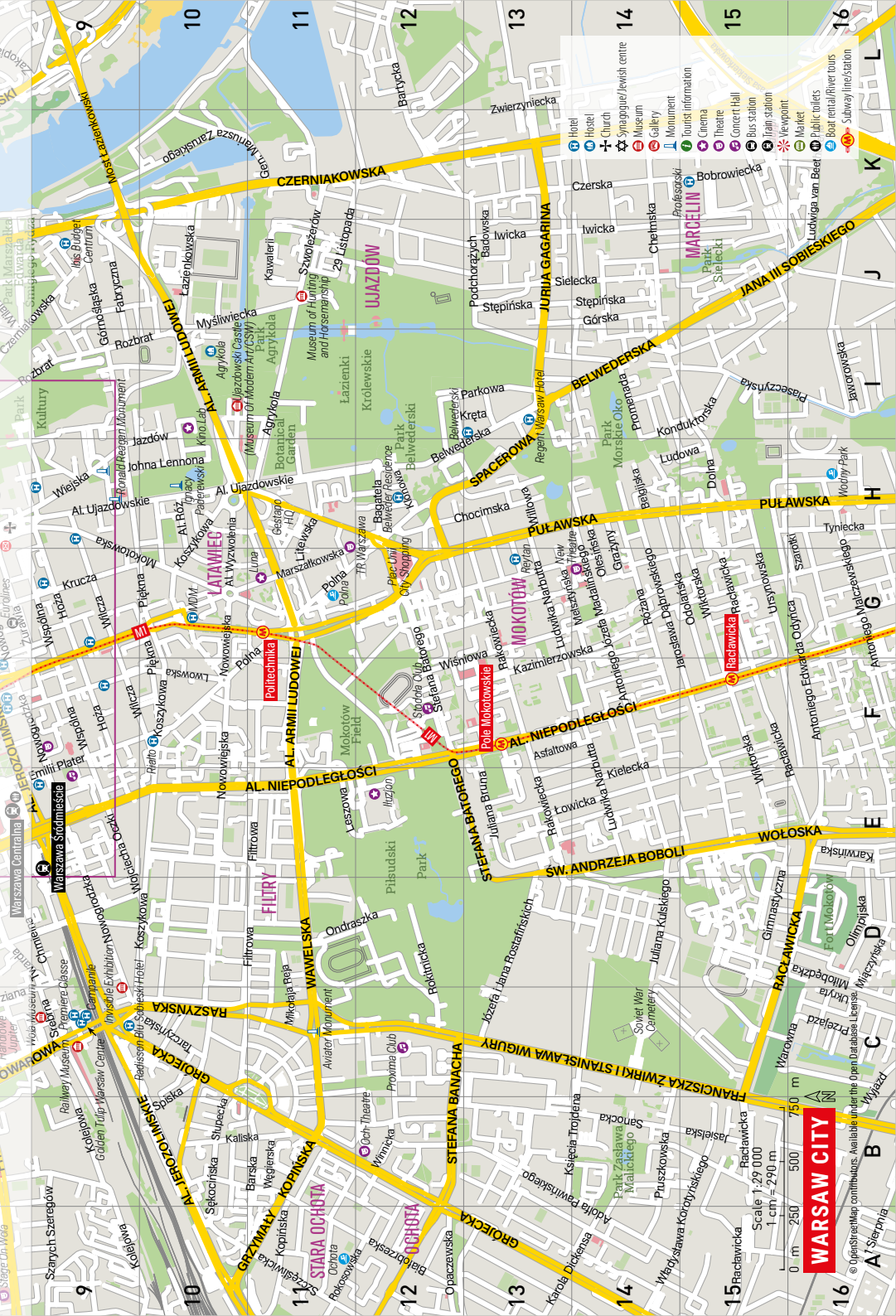
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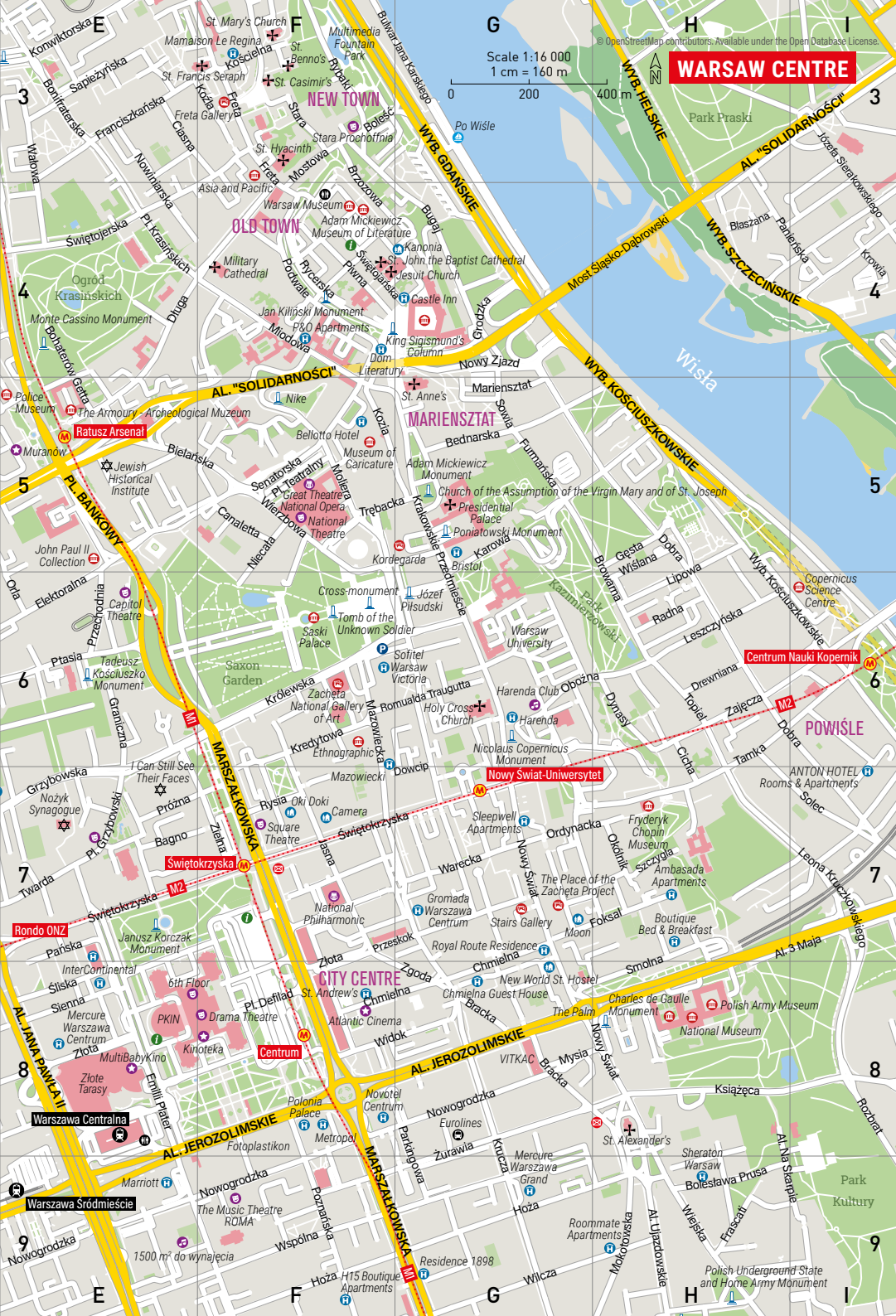




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