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The Chopin Year **2010** Warsaw

the most important musical events

January 2010 event opening chopin year • Łazienki Królewskie • **22-28 February 2010 Fryderyk Chopin Birthday Concerts • Filharmonia Narodowa • 1 March 2010 Fryderyk Chopin Birthday Concerts • Teatr Wielki - Opera Narodowa • May 2010 Rock Loves Chopin 2010 Concert • Łazienki Królewskie • 10-13 June 2010 Festival Chopin Open • Teatr Wielki - Opera Narodowa, Teatr Narodowy • 26 June 2010 I love Chopin – gala concert • Plac Defilad • May - September 2010 Chopin Concerts • Łazienki Królewskie • 1-31 July 2010 10th Musical Gardens Festival - Chopin's Gardens • Zamek Królewski • 1-31 August 2010 6th the International Music Festival „Chopin and his Europe” • 1-23 October 2010 16th Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition • 17 October 2010 W. A. Mozart Requiem • Kościół Świętego Krzyża • **October 2010 The anniversary concert commemorating the leaving of Chopin from Warsaw • Opera Narodowa****



More information about Chopin Year 2010 at:
www.chopin2010.pl

Welcome to Warsaw

– a city to spend several days in, to get to know its character, discover the extraordinary history of the capital of Poland and surrender to its unique atmosphere...



The Old Town on the UNESCO Trail



Warsaw Old Town is the historic center and the oldest (12th century) part of the town. It is also the cultural center of the capital city. Two historic squares – the Old Town Market and the New Town Market – are transformed during the summer into a musical stage on which highly appreciated jazz concerts take place, a theatre arena, and an art gallery under the sky.

The romantic streets descending to the Vistula River are vibrant with music and numerous restaurants and cafés in the former bourgeois tenement houses are extremely popular spots with visitors and they pulsate with life until the late night hours. The oldest churches in Warsaw can be found in the Old Town: the 14th-century St. John's Chapel, St. Martin's Church and the Gracious Mother of God Church. The Old Town, completely destroyed during World War II, was faithfully restored and is listed as an UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site.





A walk through the centuries



We recommend taking a walk from the Old Town along the Royal Route, the most interesting street in Warsaw. This is the historical road joining the Royal castle with the Palaces in Royal Łazienki Park and Wilanów. It has been created over the centuries and is a charming stroll past the numerous churches with their ecclesiastical atmosphere and the marvelous magnate residencies, palaces, and of course, interesting shops. A walk along the Royal Route is a journey through the centuries to our modern times, a historical journey in this historical city.





Chopin's Warsaw



Fryderyk Chopin is one of the most famous citizens of Warsaw. He spent the first 20 years of his life in the city. He took his first piano lessons here and over the years acquired the significance of his Polish nationality. He gave his first concerts in Warsaw salons before going into exile. It is also here, in St. Cross Church, that his heart rests. The Fryderyk Chopin Museum possesses the largest collection of Chopin related objects in the world. There are many places in Warsaw connected with the great composer. The Chopin Salon at Krakowskie Przedmieście Street is especially note-worthy, as is the monument in Royal Łazienki Park where concerts take place from May to September at the weekends.

Walk the footsteps of Chopin – Take your MP3 guide here:
www.um.warszawa.pl/chopin2010/





Warsaw at war

It can be said that History has not been considerate to this part of Europe and Warsaw has proved itself a courageous city many times. Examples of the heroic history of this town can be found in all parts of the city. The Warsaw Citadel, one of the architectural attractions of the city, is an impressive 19th century fortification and one of the best preserved examples of defensive architecture in Poland. Beside the barracks, the Citadel (10th pavilion) has the central investigation prison for political prisoners where Romuald Traugutt and Józef Piłsudski were held. Fighting in Warsaw came to its dramatic climax during the years of World War II. The Warsaw Rising Museum, opened on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the struggle against the German occupants, is one of the most visited places in the capital. The modern exhibition does not only describe the heroic struggle, but also the everyday life of the insurgents. The Museum is homage to the Warsaw inhabitants who fought and were killed for the freedom of Poland and its capital city. To understand this more profoundly, when you are in the Old Town pay a visit to the Monument to the Little Insurgent.





Judaica

The Jewish population of Warsaw was more than 30% of the pre-war Warsaw population. It was Europe's second and the 4th largest population of Jews in the world (after New York, Moscow and Chicago). Hundreds of Jewish schools and libraries were open, over 130 different papers were published. There were theatres and sport clubs. Among these Warsaw inhabitants were the writer and Nobel Prize laureate, Isaac Bashevis Singer, the composer and pianist, Władysław Szpilman and the prominent actress, Ida Kamińska. Therefore it is not surprising to find so many places in Warsaw where Jewish culture resonates down through time. Nożyk Synagogue, the picturesque Próżna Street, a Jewish cemetery and the Jewish theater are only the beginning of a walk in the traces of Warsaw Judaica. There are also many places commemorating the tragic pages of Warsaw's history such as the Umschlagplatz, the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, and a section of the Ghetto wall on Sienna Street.

The city is also keen to reflect its diversity and celebrates its Jewish heritage every September in the Singer Festival, one of the most important events in the city's calendar.

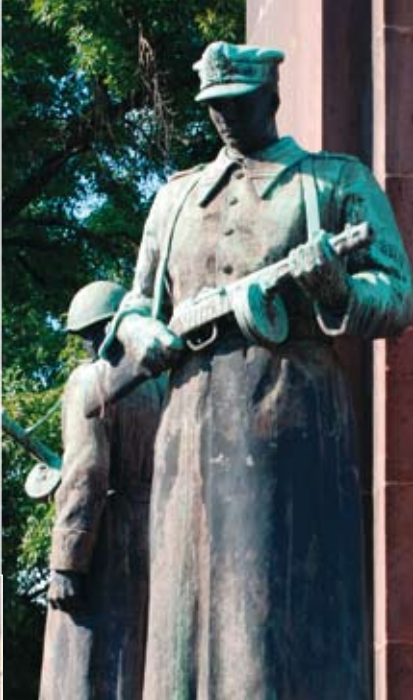




The 'Red' Capital

The Palace of Science and Culture located in the center of the city is one of the most recognizable buildings in Warsaw. It was built in 1955 and is still the highest building in Warsaw (234.5 m) and a navigational aid – serving not only tourists. And it still evokes strong controversy. The architecture of MDM – Marszałkowska Housing District – deserves attention from those looking for traces of the recent past. It is the main element of a great, perhaps unique in the world, Stalinist, socio-realist urban development. Constitution Square, designed with the thought of political rallies in mind, with its characteristic candelabra lighting fixtures and massive statues of workers is currently one of the busiest parts of the city, but today with a completely different everyday character and style. Further out of the city center The Mausoleum of Soviet Soldiers in the Pole Mokotowskie, one of the most popular parks for walks, is equally impressive.





A Green city

According to many, the colour which suits the capital the most is green. Almost a quarter of its area is covered with verdant neighborhoods: parks, squares and gardens - historic parks, the setting of royal and magnate palaces, such as the Saski Garden, Łazienki and Wilanów and more modern examples as the garden on the roof of the University Library. There are several nature reserves in Warsaw and it is also one of the very few cities in the world that can be proud of a forest inside the city boundaries. The Kampinos National Park is the only park of this kind recognized by the World Biosphere Reserve. Warsaw, being a large agglomeration, is also a haven for numerous protected animal species (including butterflies, lizards, reptiles and others). The most numerous group is the avian population. They mostly find shelter around the green shores of the Vistula River. The peregrine falcon couple living on the top of the Palace of Culture and Science is another good example of wild life in this green city.





Artistic Praga



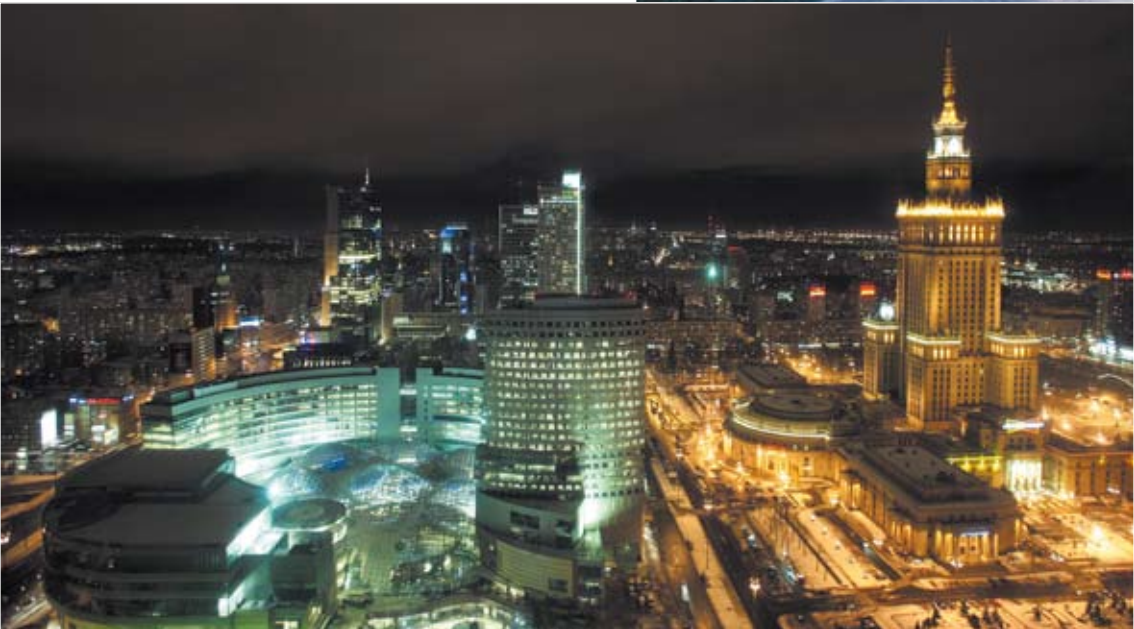
The district of Praga located on the right bank of the Vistula was once and throughout many centuries an independent town and was only officially incorporated into Warsaw at the end of the 18th century. For many years it was a secondary part of the city; it was not damaged during the wars and is currently becoming an interesting district which has been chosen by artists for their ateliers, galleries and alternative theatres. Fashionable clubs and post-industrial buildings transformed into culture centers, cinemas, galleries and bars have created a specific atmosphere in the district. In Praga you will encounter many streets that have preserved their historic architecture; with old street lamps, pre-war paving and the only one of its kind, the Różycki market place. One of the biggest attractions of Praga, especially for children, is the ZOO.





Modern Warsaw

Warsaw is an extremely dynamic city with new hotels, apartment buildings and offices appearing seemingly every day. Modern housing estates and shopping centers are springing up like mushrooms after the rain and there have been some major changes in the city skyline over the recent years. Skyscrapers and imaginative constructions (with several still being built) by renowned Polish and international architects are proof that Warsaw, steeped as it is in history, is a city with a future!





Cultural capital



Full of life and vitality, Warsaw offers a whole host of entertainments to suit every taste and every pocket.

Artistically, the city is rightly proud of its Polish and international art collections housed at the National Museum, the Royal Palace, Palace of Wilanow and Palace on the Island, as well as more modern collections at the Zacheta Gallery and the Modern Art Centre in the Ujazdowski Palace. Among the city's many art-related festivals are the International Biannual Poster Exposition and International Theatre Confrontations. Warsaw's galleries and theatres are always happy to welcome visitors and guests and really excel when an exhibition is in town.

Widely acclaimed as the City of Music, Warsaw also offers classical music enthusiasts a rich box of delights. There's the impressive National Opera House, the smaller stage at the Cameral Opera House, the National Concert Hall, the National Theatre and the stages of the Roma and Buffo theatres which will impress even the most demanding connoisseur. Hosting a number of internationally-recognised music events such as the International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition, the Music Gardens Festival, Chopin and His Europe, 'Chopiniana' – Chopin's Days in Warsaw, the contemporary music festival "Warsaw's Autumn", the Mozart Festival and the International Stanislaw Moniuszko Vocal Music Competition Warsaw has a wealth of events to suit all tastes.

Perhaps surprisingly, Warsaw also has a rich jazz scene with the JVC Jazz Festival, Warsaw's Summer Jazz Days and the open-air Jazz in the Old Town Festival setting the city alight every year. The city also does modern music with chill out, salsa, hip hop and blues being celebrated in the city's bars and clubs. The annual Orange Festival provides star-studded glitz and glamour and will undoubtedly impress with its staging and multimedia effects.

Warsaw is also proud of its past and celebrates its heritage in a number of festivals, while acknowledging the devastation of World War Two and its darker days.

This variety and quality of experience will give Warsaw the edge to gain the title of European Capital of Culture 2016.





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Up to date information about Warsaw Tourist Information Offices go to:
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Publisher: Warsaw Tourist Office

Translation: English Language Consultancy, E. Binkin

Photos: Archives of Warsaw Tourist Office „Archiwum”, Promotion Department of the City of Warsaw, F. Claus, A. Czarnecka, Fundacja Inicjatyw Międzynarodowych i Obywatelskich „Centrum Europy”, W. Grzędziński for NIFC, W. Hansen, Jewish Theatre, A. Książek, W. Kryński, R. Malinowski, P. Multan, K. Naperty, T. Nowak, W. Panów, Z. Panów, POT, Royal Castle Museum, P. Szaniawski, B. Tekieli, A. Tyrakowska-Kepińska, P. Wierzbowski, Wilanów Museum, A. Witkowska.