



# Warsaw



[www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl)  
[www.e-warsaw.pl](http://www.e-warsaw.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 oldest (13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.





# Warsaw – a city of great people

Warsaw is the hometown of Fryderyk Chopin and Maria Skłodowska-Curie. Both Fryderyk and Maria spent their childhood and youth in Warsaw and both spent their adult life in Paris.

The most important stops on the Chopin route are Holy Cross Church (kościół św. Krzyża), where his heart is interred, an ultra-modern biographical Chopin Museum and the monument in Łazienki Park, where recitals of Chopin's music are held each Sunday from May to September. The multimedia music benches, set by all the essential Chopin-related landmarks, are truly one-of-a-kind.

The main stop on the route of Maria Skłodowska-Curie is Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum – the birth house of the scientist. One should also visit Vistula bank, which was Maria's favorite place in Warsaw. As a child she liked to walk on the riverside, and went there during her last visit in Poland.

The audio guides prepared for tourist routes are presenting Warsaw of these two remarkable residents and are available free of charge in six language versions at:

[www.um.warszawa.pl/chopin](http://www.um.warszawa.pl/chopin), <http://sklodowska.um.warszawa.pl/en>





# 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.

The district organizes two attractive events – the Night of Praga (Noc Pragi), which reveals the charm of the artistic Praga, and the “Praga Cultural Meetings KULmixTURA”, which highlight the importance of multiculturalism.



# Culinary Warsaw

Apart from the restaurants with a typical Polish menu, Warsaw offers restaurants with specialties from practically all over the world. The typical Polish dishes include steak tartare, that is raw minced meat, and Warsaw-style herring as starters, as well as pork cutlet with cabbage, "pierogi" (dumplings stuffed with cabbage or meat), potato pancakes, potato dumplings and "bigos" (a cabbage and meat stew) as main dishes. Soups are very popular in Poland, such as "żurek" (sour rye soup) with white sausage, red beet soup with ravioli, tomato soup with rice or noodles, "krupnik" (barley soup), broth and tripe soup. And in the summer also cold soups.

However, the culinary symbols of Warsaw are definitely the sweets. To the oldest of them belong the products of the chocolate factory Wedel with a tradition of over 150 years! The sweet "ptasie mleczko" („bird milk”), the wedlowska mixed chocolates and the torcik wedlowski (a layered wafer cake) are popular presents from Warsaw. The chocolate café Wedel in a stylish tenement house in ulica Szpitalna 8 is the oldest chocolate café in Poland. The "Staroświecki Sklep" („Old Fashion”) at the same address offers chocolate fondue. More and more popular are also the Wedel breakfasts served here.





Not less famous Warsaw sweets are – since over three hundred years - the doughnuts from Blikle and – since over 60 years – the cream filled pastry „wuzetka”, named after the Trasa W-Z – one of the arterial roads in Warsaw (and the first significant urban development investment in the city after the 2nd World War). In 2009, the „Zygmuntówka” joined the ranks of the culinary symbols of the capital. The new Warsaw pastry is a fairy cake filled with almond cream, cranberry jam, whipped cream and chocolate mousse. The whole is topped with a meringue of irregular shape symbolizing a royal crown. The recipe was developed by the over 80-year old Warsaw confectionery shop Nova Teledzińscy and the name was given by internet users.

Information on Warsaw restaurants is available on the website [www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl)

# Cultural capital



In Warsaw it often happens, that several interesting cultural events take place on the same day. This is true for the whole year, and in Summer there is even more going on. The Varsovians even take their summer holidays depending on the dates of the festivals. Many of these take place outside and in beautiful surroundings, for example in the rose garden in Wilanów, in the amphitheatre next to the lake in the Łazienki park, in the historical courtyard of the student hall „Dziekanka”, under the Kubicki Arcades, on the Market Square in the Old Town and in the many parks in Warsaw. The entrance to most of the summer festivals is free.



# The most important cyclical events in Warsaw

Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival (two weeks before Easter) [www.beethoven.org.pl](http://www.beethoven.org.pl) • Warsaw Music Week (May) [www.warsawmusicweek.pl](http://www.warsawmusicweek.pl) • Night of Museums (May) [www.noc-muzeow.pl](http://www.noc-muzeow.pl) • Chopin Concerts in Łazienki Królewskie (May – September, each Sunday) [www.estrada.com.pl](http://www.estrada.com.pl) • International Poster Biennale (every two years, June – August) [www.postermuseum.pl](http://www.postermuseum.pl) • International Street Art Festival (July) [www.sztukaulicy.pl](http://www.sztukaulicy.pl) • Mozart Festival (15 June – 26 July) [www.operakameralna.pl](http://www.operakameralna.pl) • Warsaw Summer Jazz Days (June) [www.adamiakjazz.pl](http://www.adamiakjazz.pl) • 'Music Gardens' Festival (July) [www.ogrodymuzyczne.pl](http://www.ogrodymuzyczne.pl) • International Open Air Festival 'Jazz at the Old Town Square' (July – September, each Saturday) [www.jazznastarowce.pl](http://www.jazznastarowce.pl) • International Music Festival 'Chopin and his Europe' (August) [www.chopin.nifc.pl](http://www.chopin.nifc.pl) • Jewish Culture Festival 'Singer's Warsaw' (August/ September) [www.festiwaltingera.pl](http://www.festiwaltingera.pl) • Warsaw Film Festival (October) [www.wff.pl](http://www.wff.pl) • Sinfonia Varsovia Music Festival 'La Folle Journée de Varsovie' (September/October) [www.follejournee.pl](http://www.follejournee.pl) • Early Music Festival (November – December, each Saturday and Sunday) [www.zamek-krolewski.pl](http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl)



## WARSAW TOURIST INFORMATION

tel. (+48 22) 194 31

e-mail: [info@warsawtour.pl](mailto:info@warsawtour.pl)

For up to date information about Warsaw Tourist Information Offices go to:  
[www.warsawtour.pl](http://www.warsawtour.pl)

**Publisher:** Warsaw Tourist Office (Stołeczne Biuro Turystyki)

**Photos:** Stołeczne Biuro Turystyki, Biuro Promocji m.st. Warszawy, Muzeum Historyczne m.st. Warszawy, Muzeum w Wilanowie, Narodowy Instytut Fryderyka Chopina, Teatr Żydowski, Fabryka Trzciny, PZ Studio W. i Z. Panów, F. Claus, W. Hansen, A. Jagodziński, P. Multan, K. Naperty, P. Szaniawski, P. Wierzbowski, J. Zowski  
V Edition, 2011 Free copy