

## Warsaw

### Overview

Warsaw is a historical gem alive with the stories told in its architecture, galleries and museums. Its palaces and castles do not merely represent physical traces of the past; they are scenes of the most important historic events affecting both the city and the State. The Royal Castle was once the kings' residence and the seat where the joint Polish-Lithuanian Sejm sessions were held. Destroyed during World War II, it was rebuilt in the early Baroque style and today it serves representative, national and cultural functions, inviting visitors to Royal Apartments, Courtier Rooms, Sejm Halls and art galleries. The Presidential Palace was constructed in the seventeenth century and it was here that the Warsaw Pact was signed. Now it serves as the presidential seat.

Always serving the idea of knowledge, the classical Staszic Palace is today the location of the Polish Academy of Science. The Ujazdowski Palace on the bank of Vistula houses the Centre Modern Art and the Royal Lazienki (Lazienki Królewskie) - a palace and park complex - witnessed dramatic events of the November Night as the Belvedere was Prince Konstanty's departure point fleeing from the insurrection. A hundred years ago, it was a place of residence for the presidents of the Republic of Poland.

Warsaw has around 30 museums, museums including the only Museum of Posters in the world, the Museum of Hunting and Riding and the Railway Museum. The most prestigious are the National Museum featuring a wide collection of works from antiquity to the present epoch and the Museum of the Polish Army portraying the history of arms. Among the more modest but nonetheless interesting museums you will find Chopin's Parlour, the artist's last apartment in Warsaw, as well as the Museum of Artistic and Precision Handicraft featuring beautiful items of everyday use from the past epochs. Technical enthusiasts will find Motorization Museum in Otrebusy very interesting. It houses around 300 vintage vehicles.

The sign of bronze letters embedded in marble, "Cunctis Patent Ingressus" meaning, "Admission free for everyone" greets visitors to the first public museum in Poland - "Grand Gallery". Opened in 1805, Polish rulers, gentry, aristocracy, statesman and scholars have gathered their works of art here at their own expense. It features a wide collection of paintings, sculpture, medals, graphic arts and works of applied and numismatic art.

Nowadays the inhabitants and visitors of Warsaw have the opportunity to admire a wide variety of paintings, sculptures and other fine arts. In addition, alongside these treasures of national culture, the city abounds in galleries small and large, thanks to which, citizens and guests can maintain a less formal contact with art. One such gallery is in the open air featuring photographs by the fence of Lazienki Park, along Aleje Ujazdowskie. What is more, in many cafés, guests can order desert and, buy a painting featured on the café wall. Galleries housed in the Centre of Modern Art in Ujazdowski Palace offer not only fascinating exhibitions, but also events including film screenings and avant-garde concerts. In addition to all this wonderful art, contemporary works of graphic art can be a perfect souvenir from Warsaw.

### Places to Visit

#### Historical Museum Of The City Of Warsaw

Situated in 11 town houses carefully reconstructed after the Second World War, the Historical Museum of the Capital City of Warsaw occupies the northern facade of the Old Town Market. It features the permanent exhibition entitled "The Seven Ages of Warsaw" as well as temporary exhibitions. Among the exhibits visitors will find paintings, drawings, examples of artistic craftsmanship, prints, sculptures, mementoes of well-known Warsaw inhabitants, photographs, documents and seals as well of models of buildings lost to history.

## **Contemporary Art Gallery Farbiarnia na Pieknej**

Situated in the centre of the Warsaw city, near the Konstytucji Square, the Contemporary Art Gallery features artworks of the most appealing Polish and foreign artists.

The gallery exists to promote quality modern art. There is a fine selection of artworks of various styles, themes, sizes and techniques, including paintings, drawings, graphics and sculpture all created by talented artists who have already secured a reputation. Their works are of high aesthetic and artistic value as well as being affordable.

## **Museum of Wooden Architecture of the Region of Siedlce**

Situated in the district of of Grebków, between the town Grebków and the village Kopcie, the main building of the Museum of Wooden Architecture is a large larch wood manor house from 1743. Visitors come to the museum to admire its interior with furniture from various ages inspired by numerous styles. The manor house is surrounded by old woods and the manor farm is now replaced by a complex of wooden houses specific to the region of Siedlce. The many artworks on show feature mainly nobles' portraits, drawings, landscapes, watercolours, sculpture and pieces of applied art.

## **The Staszic Palace**

Built in 1820 to 1823 in the neoclassical style for the Society of the Friends of Science, the Staszic Palace was redeveloped as Russian school in the 2nd half of 19th century. Burnt out during the 1944 Uprising, it was rebuilt and extended from 1947 to 1949, serving as seat of Polish Academy of Sciences from 1952 onwards.

## **Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny w Warszawie (Zoological Garden)**

A great family day out. During May to September the Garden is open daily from 09:00 to 18:00 or sometimes longer according to weather conditions and attendance. During October to April the Garden is open from 09:00 to 15:00 or longer once again according to weather and attendance.

## **2012 UEFA European Football Championship**

In 2009 Warsaw was confirmed as one of the host cities of 2012 UEFA European Football Championship

## **Regular Events**

### **January - Great Orchestra of Christmas**

January brings the Great Orchestra of Christmas charity drive to its grand finale. Visitors can enjoy an extravaganza of free musical performances, auctions and shows all dedicated to the cause of disadvantaged children.

### **February - Fat Thursday**

Food lovers can indulge themselves on Fat Thursday, a one day festival that marks the coming of Lent. Warsaw's bakeries and confectioneries cook up a storm of donuts and Faworki – a sweet pastry that is traditionally eaten on this day.

## **March - Warsaw Carnival**

Warsaw carnival time arrives each year before Easter. Thousands gather on the city's streets to celebrate and be entertained by a colourful array of parades, live music and dance performances.

## **April - Ludwig Van Beethoven Easter Festival**

The biggest of its kind in Poland, the festival celebrates the life and works of Beethoven in a series of breathtaking concerts. Music lovers can enjoy performances by world class virtuosos, choirs and orchestras in some of Warsaw's finest venues.

## **May - International Book Fair**

The International Book Fair, held at the Palace of Culture & Science, is an annual event that links East and Western publishers. Attracting authors, agents and sellers from all over Europe, book lovers can enjoy lively readings, discussions and debates.

## **June - Midsummer's Eve**

In June thousands of revellers flock to the Salska Noc Swietojanska or Midsummer's Eve festival. Celebrations include fancy dress competitions, live music performances and a spectacular fireworks display.

## **July - International Street Arts Festival**

Millions of onlookers gather in Warsaw's streets each July to enjoy Poland's biggest outdoor festival. Clowns, acrobats, mime artists and musicians put on an eclectic display of vibrant performances. Popular locations around the city include the New and Old Town Square, Agrykola Park, Pole Mokotowskie Park and Plac Zamkowy.

## **August - Jazz in the Old Town Square**

August attracts thousands of jazz enthusiasts to this exciting event in Warsaw's Old Square. The festival features a number of open air concerts by top musicians and international groups.

## **September - Warsaw Autumn Festival**

September brings one of the biggest events in Warsaw's musical calendar. Visitors can enjoy a blend of contemporary and classical music from all over the world. Concerts are held at the National Philharmonic Hall and other city venues. Lectures, conferences and exhibitions all accompany the festival.

## **October - Warsaw International Film Festival**

The Warsaw film festival is the key international film event in Poland, and one of the largest in Europe. Film fans can enjoy an array of art house offerings from both international and home grown talent. Films are screened in their original language with Polish subtitles.

## **November - Piano Festival**

November brings the acclaimed Piano Festival to Warsaw. The event presents some of Poland's finest pianists

performing in breathtaking locations such as the Philharmonic Hall and the Royal Castle.

## **December - Christmas Markets**

Warsaw celebrates the Christmas season in style, with festive markets springing up around the city. Perfect for all the family, visitors can enjoy Christmas carols whilst browsing stalls offering cured meats, cheeses, breads and traditional handicrafts.

## **Getting Around**

### **Bus/Tram**

Warsaw has an extensive public transport system that comprises of over 200 buses, 30 tram lines and a metro system that takes passengers all around the city and surrounding suburbs. Tickets must be purchased and validated prior to boarding from vending machines at stops or at newsagents, hotels, post offices or metro stations. It is possible to buy direct from the driver, but you will need the exact fare ready, and if behind schedule you may be refused. Buses, Trams and the Metro all have a unified ticketing system, allowing visitors to travel with ease any way they choose. Daily, weekly and monthly passes are also available which work out to be very cost efficient.

Long distance buses arrive and depart from two main terminals (or Państwowa Komunikacja Samochodowa) at the east and west of the city centre, with services to most major cities in Poland. Tickets can be purchased at the terminal building or via contacting the bus companies directly.

### **Train**

Trains are maintained and operated by Polish Railways and depart from Warszawa Centralna train station. The station offers daily services to Poland's major cities and other international destinations such as Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Hamburg, Kiev and Odessa. Tickets for domestic trains can be purchased from counters at the east end of the main concourse, whilst for international trains head to the information office at the west end of the station.

### **Taxi**

There are many official taxis that operate throughout Warsaw and can be hailed on the street, but it is often easier to pre-book by telephone or via a hotel. Be sure to only use licensed vehicles that display a phone number and company logo on the outside of the car. Predominantly operated by large companies, vehicles are almost always licensed and use their meters – just make sure they are switched on before you set off.

## Local Services

### Clubs

#### **Tortilla Factory**

First opened at the end of the 90s, it didn't take long for the Warsaw Tortilla Factory to engrave their name in local lore. WTF are rightfully regarded as pioneers that introduced the exotic to the mainstream. Without fail, part of the credit for this successful Mexican Revolution can be attributed to the homemade salsas and sauces: covering a kaleidoscope of tastes, they range from mild to explosive and all in between. Equally celebrated is our attention to detail, a point underlined by our commitment to quality ingredients, authentic recipes and incredible tortillas – while most restaurants are happy to shortcut, we're proud to produce ours daily on-site.

On any given night, find local and international bands playing on stage, with our artists playing everything from original material to great party covers. We've also earned a reputation as Warsaw's leading sports bar, a title secured thanks to five HD screens and access to all the major channels. Even so, you don't have to be a fan of either sport or live music to enjoy Tortilla to the fullest. Rated as one of Warsaw's liveliest venues, it's an action-packed spot with global appeal.

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## Language Services

#### **Behlert & Behlert**

Our services cover interpreting and written translation, including sworn translations.

We help people who come to Poland in dealing with all formalities, by translating documentation and interpreting at business meetings; we also provide language services in the field of medicine, both for individuals and companies.

We offer interpreting where interpreters care not only for the discrete rendition of conversations and dialogues, but also remain at the client's disposal should any additional needs of the organisers arise.

We also provide comprehensive services for international conferences that require interpreters' participation, as well as counselling in this area.

We also propose technical services at conferences, congresses, fairs, exhibitions, seminars, corporate events, promotional events and business meetings.

We put only the best translators and top quality equipment at your disposal, which guarantee to turn every meeting into a true success.

Our translators are fluent in the following languages:

Belarusian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Latvian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai and Ukrainian.

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## Restaurants

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