



Welcome to Warsaw

Warsaw is the capital of Poland, a country located in the heart of Europe spread out between the Baltic Sea and the Tatas. Poland is the ninth biggest and sixth most densely populated country in Europe. The country is characterised by excellent natural conditions, delightful landscapes, unique culture and history. Warsaw is a city with more than seven hundred years of rich history. It used to be a merchants' settlement and the seat of the rulers since the 16th century. Before World War II, it used to be called the Paris of the East. The capi-

tal city destroyed in almost 85% emerged like a phoenix from the ashes as a result the effort made by the entire nation. Today, it is a rapidly developing metropolis, a city filled with culture and unique atmosphere, which attracts every year millions of tourists. The **Vistula River** flowing through the city is not only the longest river in Poland, joining the former and the current capital of Poland: Cracow and Warsaw, but also the last big wild river on our continent. Its natural importance to Europe cannot be overestimated as it is a significant ecological corridor.

The City of Music

Warsaw resounds with music. Every month, over 100 cultural events are held in the capital city, including the world-renown festivals, such as: Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival, International Music Festival, 'Chopin and his Europe', La Folle Journée de Varsovie, Warsaw Summer Jazz Days. The performers include the greatest artists performing on the most famous European concert stages. The asset of Warsaw is that tickets for big name concerts are much cheaper than in Vienna or Berlin. The number of events and their

prestige is the asset of Warsaw in its effort to obtain the title of the European Capital of Culture 2016.



The City of great people

Fryderyk Chopin – a brilliant pianist and an outstanding composer, whose heart is entombed in the Holy Cross Church, spent half of his life in Warsaw. While in Warsaw, it is worth paying a visit to his museum, which is one of the most modern biographic museums in Europe, but also boasts the biggest collection of objects relating to Chopin in the world.

Warsaw is also the home city of **Maria Skłodowska-Curie** – the great scientist, the precursor of radiochemistry and double Noble prize winner. The tenement house, which she was born in, houses the only biographic museum in the world dedicated to the scientist. 2011 is the global International Year of Chemistry, and Maria Skłodowska-Curie is its patron.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum, ul. Freta 16 Chopin mural at ul. Tamka



Maria Skłodowska-Curie mural at ul. Lipowa Fryderyk Chopin Monument in Łazienki Królewskie

Follow in:

- Fryderyk Chopin's footsteps
- download an MP3 guide – www.um.warszawa.pl/chopin2010
 - the Chopin's route also features multimedia, playing benches with special photocodes allowing to download the audio guide.
- Maria Skłodowska-Curie
- download an MP3 guide – sklodowska.um.warszawa.pl

The City of nature

Almost ¼ of the area of Warsaw is covered with parks, squares and gardens. The historic parks, which constitute a setting for royal and aristocratic residences (the Saxon Garden, the Royal Łazienki and Wilanów), also feature modern solutions, such as the garden on the roof of the new building of the Warsaw University Library. In the immediate vicinity of the capital lies the Kampinos Primeval Forest – the second largest national park in Poland. Because of the abundance of flora and fauna, UNESCO recognised the Kampinos National Park as a biosphere reserve. The Vistula River flowing through the capital city is one of the few rivers in Europe to retain its natural character and was covered by the Natura 2000 programme. Warsaw as a conurbation is at the same time a refuge for many protected animal species, mainly wild birds. In summer, from May to the end of September, it is nice to cool off on an ornithological ship or a water tram (www.ztm.waw.pl).



Warsaw before 2012

Today, Warsaw is preparing for the role of the Host City of the Football World Championship UEFA EURO 2012™. All the matches, including the opening and the quarter- and semi-final, will be held at the National Stadium, the most modern stadium in Poland ranked among "Elite" class facilities. The stadium, built from scratch in place of the historic 10th Anniversary Stadium, has been designed to accommodate 55 000 people.



National Stadium, www.stadionnarodowy.org.pl

Walk around Warsaw's Old and New Town

1. The Royal Castle

the seat of the kings and the authorities of the Republic of Poland (since the 16th century). The place of adoption of the Confederation of Warsaw of 1573 – the first act of the freedom of conscience in Europe, and in 1791 – of the Constitution of May 3 – the first European constitution. During World War II, the Castle was completely destroyed – it was reconstructed from its remains. Today, it is a museum. The pearls of the castle collection are original paintings by Rembrandt and works of Bernard Bellott called Canaletto, whose views of the 18th century Warsaw were an invaluable aid during the post-war reconstruction of the city.

Address:
pl. Zamkowy 4
tel. +48 22 35 55 170
www.zamek-krolewski.pl



Interesting sites in the vicinity:

2. King Zygmunt III Waza Column
3. Cathedral Basilica of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
4. The Mermaid Statue
5. Barbican and defensive walls
6. The Little Insurgent Monument
7. The Church of St. Jack
8. Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum
9. The Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary
10. The Cathedral Church of the Polish Army of Holy Mary, Queen of Poland
11. The Monument of the Warsaw Uprising 1944
12. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland

Please note that numbers in the text correspond to numbers on the map

The Old Town (Stare Miasto) the historic centre and the oldest part of the city, and at the same time the cultural salon of the capital. Established in the 13th century as a princely town and a settlement surrounded with walls. During World War II, the city was destroyed in 90%. Following the perfect reconstruction the city was registered as UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980. The Old Town is a picturesque site and a tourist attraction. It is the starting point of all visits to Warsaw for tourists and official national delegations.



Walk along the Royal Route

The Royal Route

the most elegant artery of Warsaw. It starts at Zamkowy Square, leads through the Royal Łazienki Park (the summer seat of the last king of Poland Stanisław August Poniatowski), and ends in Wilanów – the residence of King John III Sobieski. In Łazienki Park, by the Chopin monument, free Chopin concerts are held every Sunday from mid-May until late September.



13. The Presidential Palace

(formerly known as the Radziwiłł or the Viceroy's Palace) The biggest palace in Warsaw built in the 17th century. It served as the seat of the first government after the recovery of independence in 1918. It is the place of signing the Warsaw Pact in 1955, the treaty on the normalisation of relations with Germany in 1970, and in 1989 the Round Table meeting was held here. Since 1994, the successive Presidents of the Republic of Poland resided here: L. Wałęsa, A. Kwaśniewski, L. Kaczyński. The current President, Bronisław Komorowski, lives in the Belvedere, and the Viceroy's Palace serves as his chancellery. In front of the Palace, there is a monument to Prince Józef Poniatowski – the great patriot, the minister of war and the commander in chief, who lived at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, which was modelled on the monument to Marcus Aurelius on the Capitol.



Address:
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 46/50, tel. +48 22 695 13 23
virtual tour – www.prezydent.pl/wycieczka/

14. The Guardhouse at the Royal Route

a building of the former watchtower of the Potocki Palace, the present seat of the Ministry of Culture. It is a special place – a gallery, a site for presentation of cultural projects and a tourist information office. In the first half of 2011, the operations of the Guardhouse have been dedicated to Czesław Miłosz – an outstanding writer, a Nobel prize-winner, and in the second half of the year – to the Polish Presidency in the EU. Events to be held here include workshops, meetings with the public, on-line broadcasts, with particular emphasis on the European Culture Congress.

Address: ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 15/17, tel. +48 22 421 01 25
www.kordegarda.org



15. The Art Pavilion

designed by Olafur Eliasson, at the junction of Karowa and Karkowskie Przedmieście Streets – set up for the duration of the Polish Presidency. A place for artistic meetings, presentations of Polish cultural institutions, exhibitions, displays in the field of visual and performance art.

16. The Belvedere

the Residence of the President of the Republic of Poland. A classical palace built in the 17th century. Since the mid-18th century, it was owned by King St. A. Poniatowski, who set up a pottery manufactory here. Since 1818, it was the residence of Great Prince Constantine, the tsar's viceroy in Poland. In the subsequent years, it was the domicile of J. Piłsudski and the residence of Polish presidents. At present, it is occupied by President Bronisław Komorowski.

Interesting sites in the vicinity:

17. St. Anne's Church
18. Bristol Hotel
19. History Meeting House
20. Warsaw University
21. Sasaki Garden
22. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
23. Chopin Family Drawing-Room
24. The Smaller Basilica of the Holy Cross
25. Mikołaj Kopernik Monument
26. Church of St. Alexander
27. Ujazdowski Castle – Centre for Contemporary Art



Address:
ul. Belwederska 56, tel. + 48 22 695 19 53
www.prezydent.pl



Warsaw
Tourist
Information
Warszawska
Informacja
Turystyczna



Important websites:

Official Tourist Portal of Warsaw: www.warsawtour.pl
The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage: www.mkidn.gov.pl
Official websites dedicated to the Polish Presidency in the European Union: www.prezydencaue.gov.pl, www.pl2011.eu
The National Audiovisual Institute: www.nina.gov.pl/prezydenca
European Culture Congress: www.culturecongress.eu
Adam Mickiewicz Institute: www.iam.pl, www.culture.pl
Official website of the European Union: europa.eu

WARSAW TOURIST INFORMATION
tel. (+48 22) 194 31
e-mail: info@warsawtour.pl

For up to date information about Warsaw Tourist Information Offices go to www.warsawtour.pl

Publisher:
Warsaw Tourist Office (Stołeczne Biuro Turystyki)

Photos:
Stołeczne Biuro Turystyki, zbiory miasta st. Warszawy (fot. Stelmach), W. Hansen, W. i Z. Panów (PZ Studio), J. Sielicka, P. Wierzbowski, Centrum Nauki Kopernik, Narodowy Instytut Fryderyka Chopina, Pałac Kultury i Nauki, PL.2012 Sp. z o.o.

Edition I, Warsaw 2011
Free copy

Other interesting places

28. The Copernicus Science Centre

a haven for people interested in the world. Attractions for visitors include the aurora, a criminology lab and a planetarium. Experimenting is so captivating that it is good to set aside several hours for the visit! The roof of the Centre features a garden with a view of the Vistula River and the National Stadium.



Address: ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20, tel. +48 22 596 41 00
www.kopernik.org.pl

29. The Fryderyk Chopin Museum

one of the most state-of-the-art biographic museums in Europe located in the historic Ostrogski Palace, near the Royal Route. The biggest collection of Chopin-related objects in the world, featuring multimedia exhibitions. In addition to viewing the priceless mementos of the composer, visitors can hear twittering birds in Nohant and smell Chopin's favourite scent of violets.



Address: ul. Tamka 41, tel. +48 22 44 16 251
www.chopin.museum/pl

30. The Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland – the seat of the Parliament

the buildings of the Polish Parliament are located in one of the most beautiful parts of the city, in the immediate vicinity of Ujazdowski Park and Marshall Edward Rydz-Śmigły Park, near the Royal Baths. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland has its own seat since the end of World War I in 1918 when the building of the former girls' secondary school (Alexandrian-Maryian Institute for Girls' Education) was converted. The buildings of the Parliament, destroyed during World War II, were reconstructed in a architectural style referring to the Renaissance.

Address: ul. Wiejska 4/6/8, tel. +48 22 694 23 38
www.sejm.gov.pl, www.senat.gov.pl

31. The Palace of Culture and Science

the tallest building in Warsaw (231 m) and a classic example of socialist-realist architecture. It was built by Soviet workers as 'a gift of the Soviet people to the Polish nation'. Since 2007 it has been listed in the cultural heritage register. The palace houses four theatres, a multiplex cinema, the Congress Hall – the biggest concert hall in Poland, the Museum of Technology and the Warsaw Tourist Information point. One of the greatest attractions of the palace is the observation deck on the 30th floor with a view of the panorama of Warsaw. In summer the deck is open also at night.



Address: pl. Defilad 1, tel. +48 22 656 76 00
www.pkin.pl

32. The Warsaw Uprising Museum

an interactive museum located in the building of the former tram power station, it is one of the most important and most readily visited museums in Warsaw. It is a tribute to Varsovians who struggled and died for free Poland and its capital city during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. The exhibition renders the climate of that time, is an attempt at reconstructing the atmosphere of the insurrectionary Warsaw, and presents not only the military history of the 63 days of struggle, but also the daily life of the civilians. One of the numerous attractions of the museum is the replica of Liberator B-24J bomber.



Address: ul. Grzybowska 79, tel. +48 22 539 79 05
www.1944.pl

33. The Warsaw Photoplasticon

established at the turn of the 20th century, and has operated to this day only with minor interruptions in the original beautiful tenement house in the city centre. It boasts a collection of more than 5,000 old photos from various corners of the globe, including a number of photos from the pre-war Warsaw.

Address: al. Jerozolimskie 51, tel. +48 22 629 60 78
www.fotoplastikonwarszawski.pl

34. National Museum

– al. Jerozolimskie 3, www.mnw.art.pl

35. The Museum of the Polish Army

– al. Jerozolimskie 3, www.muzeumwp.pl

36. Nożyk Synagogue

– ul. Twarda 6, www.warszawa.jewish.org.pl

37. Library of Warsaw University

– ul. Dobra 56/66, www.buw.uw.edu.pl



Practical Information

Weather

Warsaw is in the transitional zone of the moderate climate zone, characterised by the presence of hot summers and cold winters. The annual average temperature goes from +18°C in June to -5°C in February, with a maximum of +30°C and a minimum of -20°C.

Electricity

In Poland, the voltage is 230V, 50 Hz. The plug is the standard European double plug.

Currency

The currency in Poland is the Polish Złoty (PLN) 1 PLN = 100 groszy.
1€ = ca. PLN 4,0

Prohibitions:

Smoking. In Warsaw smoking is prohibited at public transportation stops and shelters. Not respecting this risks the offender receiving a fine. Most restaurants have separate rooms for smokers.

Alcohol. In Warsaw you may not drink alcohol in public places (parks, squares, streets, etc.), with the exception of permitted areas such as gardens and patios in restaurants and pubs. Not respecting this risks the offender receiving a fine.

Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Emergency	112	Ambulance	999
Fire Brigade	998	City Guard	986
Police	997		

For foreigners

during the summer 800 200 300, from mobile phones 608 599 999 (from June to September between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.)

Information Telephone Numbers

Tourist Information +48 194 31, www.warsawtour.pl
Public Transport (ZTM) Information +48 194 84, www.ztm.waw.pl
Warsaw Medical Information +48 22 827 89 62

Taxi

When using taxis in Warsaw, it is strongly recommended that you only use taxis with the following: the symbol of Warsaw – a mermaid – on both front doors, yellow/red stripes affixed to the glass along the front doors, a number stuck to the side of the vehicle, a hologram with the license number and the vehicle's registration number on the upper right-hand corner of the front glass and a sticker with price information per kilometer that must be displayed on the glass of the right-hand side back door.

List of taxi corporations in Warsaw – www.warsawtour.pl

Selected corporations:

MPT	+48 191 91	Sawa Taxi	+48 22 644 44 44
Ele Taxi	+48 22 811 11 11	Super Taxi	+48 196 22

