

Safe city break

# WARSAW



#WeAreReady

## #WarsawIsReady

Warsaw, with its fascinating history, dynamic growth, rich cultural offer and creative energy allows itself to be rediscovered with each and every visit. Regardless of any previous expectations, it will always surprise you with its diversity. To encourage you to explore its many faces, we present you with a weekend guide to the variety of experiences which await you in Poland's capital.



Services and attractions affiliated in Warsaw Tourism Organisation can be found on [www.warsawcitybreak.com](http://www.warsawcitybreak.com) or [www.Go2Warsaw.pl](http://www.Go2Warsaw.pl)

## Getting there

### ✈ By plane

Warsaw is serviced by two international airports. The main, **Warsaw Chopin Airport** is located 10km from the city centre. From there it can be reached by a fast rail connection (SKM) - line S2 or direct buses: 175 or the night line N32.

**Warsaw-Modlin Airport** is located 35km from the city centre and can be reached in 45 mins. by taxi or ModlinBus.



### By train or bus

Warsaw has three major train stations: **Warsaw Central (Warszawa Centralna)** in the city centre, **Western Warsaw (Warszawa Zachodnia)** next to the Western International Bus Station, situated 3km from city centre, and **Eastern Warsaw (Warszawa Wschodnia)** on the east side of the Vistula



### By car

Situated in the heart of Europe, Warsaw is easily accessible by road. The main access roads to the Polish capital are sections of three principal European routes: **route E77** - north-south European route running through Central Europe; from the south-east: **route E67** - a north-south European route connecting Central Europe with Scandinavia; and from the west: **motorway A2, route E30** - an East-west European route.



## Getting around

If you are moving around the Old Town and the Palace of Culture and Science area, you might find it more convenient and scenic to walk. Otherwise, Warsaw boasts a quick, safe and efficient public transport system of **metro, trams, buses and night buses**.

Tickets can be purchased at **ZTM points**, newsagents and at ticket machines at metro stations, bus and tram stops and on most buses and trams. You can pay either with cash or by card. Tickets can be used for all means of transport. You can select from 20-, 75- and 90-minute tickets. Longer-term options include **one-day, three-day and weekend tickets**.

A popular and quick way to get around is a city bike system called **Veturilo/nextbike** which offers over 5700 bikes at almost 400 stations.



## Where to stay?

Warsaw's wide accommodation offer includes international hotel chains, boutique properties in heritage buildings, as well as hostels and apartments.



Hotels recommended by Warsaw Tourism Organization can be found on: [www.warsawcitybreak.com/where-to-stay/](http://www.warsawcitybreak.com/where-to-stay/)

## How to prepare for your arrival?

A list of Warsaw's museums and attractions recommended by Warsaw Tourism Organization can be found on [www.warsawcitybreak.com](http://www.warsawcitybreak.com). We also recommend to download the **City Talks** app, where you will find many interesting recorded stories which you can listen to when exploring the city. A great source of travel inspiration is the **Warsaw Quest quiz**, which, basing on your results, will suggest the most interesting activities for you. At tourist information points at the **Palace of Culture and Science** and **Praga Koneser Centre** you'll receive some handy materials, such as **Best of Warsaw City Tours map**, as well as some themed folders. You can also purchase the **Warsaw Pass** there, which will offer you savings on major tourist attractions and access to the sightseeing bus.



## What to eat?

**Pyzy** - a legendary Praga market delicacy: round potato dumplings stuffed with meat, traditionally served in a jar topped with lardons. These days you can also enjoy their more vegan-friendly versions, such as wild mushrooms and pesto. It's a compulsory stop when visiting Praga.

**Wuzetka** - classic cake made of layers of cocoa-flavoured sponge cake, jam, and whipped cream with chocolate coating. It is believed that the name - a spelling out of the W-Z letters - is associated with the great W-Z highway which was built in Warsaw in the late 1940s.



## Where to eat?

Over the past years Warsaw has undergone a real culinary revolution, filling with eateries offering a variety of flavours and experiences: from elegant, starred restaurants and signature cuisine, basing on fresh produce and local traditions, to unpretentious bistros and milk bars, where soups, dumplings, tripe soups and cream pies reign supreme. Warsaw also ranks among the top vegan-friendly cities according to the HappyCow Vegan Guide. Food courts in historical market halls like Hala Koszyki or Hala Gwardii, where nearly all corners of the world meet on the table, are great for a casual brunch or a lively evening meal. In the summer a popular choice are outdoor food markets in the parks and by the Vistula River or the neon-lit Night Markets.



Restaurants recommended by Warsaw Tourism Organization can be found on: [www.warsawcitybreak.com/where-to-eat/](http://www.warsawcitybreak.com/where-to-eat/)

## Recommended by a local:

- When strolling look out for Warsaw's mermaids - an iconic image to capture on holiday photos
- Warsaw looks stunning from above! Compare the views from 30th floor of the Palace of Culture, the viewing terrace of St Anna's church near the Castle Square, the highest floor of the Museum of Warsaw in the Old Town, rooftop gardens of Warsaw University Library and Copernicus Science Centre by the Vistula River
- Almost half of Warsaw's area consists of green spaces. Hop on one of the city bikes and join the Varsovians picnicking in Pole Mokotowskie, Skaryszewski Park or the river beach by the PGE National Stadium.

Day I

# FRIDAY



## First impressions: Royal Route in the footsteps of Chopin and the Old Town (4h)

To get to the Old Town you can choose to walk down Nowy Świat (New World street) and Krakowskie Przedmieście, known as the **Royal Route**, passing the Church of the Holy Cross with Chopin's heart, gate of Warsaw University and the Presidential Palace on your way. You can also pop-in to the atmospheric **Fryderyk Chopin Museum** and take a break on one of the granite benches, which after pressing a button, will play one of the great composer's pieces. A perfect start of the weekend would be a Chopin concert accompanied by a glass of sparkling wine in one of the venues near the Castle Square: **Chopin Point**, **Time for Chopin** or **Fryderyk Concert Hall**. **Royal Castle** with its picturesque gardens overlooking the river is just nearby, as is the **Museum of Warsaw** in the Old Town Market Square. When travelling with kids **Muzeum Świat Iluzji/World of Illusion** is also a great place to visit.

Walking through the **Barbican** and passing the restaurant gardens of Freta Street and the **Museum of Maria Skłodowska-Curie**, you will reach the **New Town Market Square** and walking down towards the River – the **Fountain Park**. On summer evenings you can catch a music and light show here, or just cool down by the fountain breeze.

Passing the **Warsaw Uprising Monument** on Długa street and walking down Miodowa street you will get to the **Theatre Square**, where you can rest in one of the cafes overlooking the **Grand Theatre and the National Opera**. Time permitting, pay a visit to **Zachęta Art Gallery**, walking past the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** on Piłsudski Square next to the **Saxon Garden**. End the evening in one of numerous restaurants on Nowy Świat or Świętokrzyska street.

Day II

# SATURDAY



## Start the day in the city (3-4h)

Start the day with coffee and freshly baked croissants from **Charlotte Bistro** at the trendy **Plac Zbawiciela**. From there you're only a few steps away from **Plac Konstytucji** and the famous social-realist **MDM estate**, where among monumental architecture, reliefs and huge candelabra you'll find a real gem of the bygone era – **Museum of Life Under Communism**. Nourished by some classic communist-time flavours of orangeade and chocolate and cream sponge cake (**wuzetka**), for a 'proper' meal you can choose the nearby Hala Koszyki or one of the restaurants on Wilcza, Hoża and Poznańska streets, serving light and contemporary versions of Polish classics and a wide selection of vegan options.

Now it's just a short walk from the **Palace of Culture and Science**, which offers panoramic views of Polish capital from its 30th floor viewing terrace. The building itself is home to many institutions: theatres, restaurants and cafes, a cinema, as well as a magical, hidden in the inside courtyard **Dollhouse Museum**. There's also a temporary exhibition of the **Gallery of Steel Figures**.



## Visit a museum

For history buffs the interactive and memorable **Warsaw Rising Museum** and the beautifully designed and built within the former Warsaw ghetto **Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN** should not be missed. Art lovers should pay a visit to the modernist edifice of **National Museum**, holding 830,000 pieces of Polish and worldwide art, dating from Ancient history to the present day.



## Afternoon in Praga (4-5h)

In the afternoon you can catch a tram, metro or a water taxi across the Vistula river to Praga, to feel the spirit of old Warsaw in its atmospheric courtyards. With the **City Talks** app you'll learn the history of many visited sites, such as old tenement houses or factories. Here you can try the famous potato dumplings (**pyzy**) from the **Różycki Market** and on weekends listen to outdoor concerts on **Ząbkowska street**, relaxing in one of the restaurant gardens or browsing books, vinyl records and antiques in the flea markets.

A visit to the **Koneser Praga Centre** in the former site of **Warsaw's Vodka Factory** can easily turn into an evening. Here you can shop for local fashion and art, tour the interactive **Polish Vodka Museum** with a great rooftop cocktail bar and dine in one of many restaurants. If travelling with children you might want to consider a visit to the **Warsaw ZOO** or the **PGE Narodowy National Stadium**.

Day III

# SUNDAY



## Into the green (2h)

For an ideal start of the day head to the **Royal Łazienki Park** and relax by Chopin's iconic statue – a venue of popular Sunday concerts. Enjoy fabulous views of Vistula River, Agrykola park, **Legia Warsaw stadium** and **Torwar sports centre** from the back of the nearby **Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art**.

## Riverside relaxation (2-3h)

From here you're only steps away from the green Powiśle and **Vistula River Boulevards**, which you can walk, ride on a Veturilo city bike or enjoy from aboard of one of **Po Wiśle** cruise boats, passing numerous restaurant gardens, outdoor food stalls and boat cafes. At the level of Świętokrzyski bridge pop into the **Museum of Modern Art** and **Copernicus Science Centre**. From its volcanic rooftop gardens you'll see the Vistula river, tiled rooftops of the Old Town and **PGE National Stadium**. If you can't get enough of the panoramic views, **Warsaw University Library** next door offers a wonderfully scenic rooftop oasis. Spend the last moments in the capital strolling around the sleepy **Mariensztat** with a picturesque, small town-feel market square.

**You certainly won't get to know the entire Warsaw in just one weekend, but it's enough to fall in love with it and want to come back at the earliest opportunity. Make the first move and it will surprise you with something new each and every time.**