



POLYGLOT GATHERING

PG Guide of Warsaw

Warsaw is a city of more than 2 million inhabitants. Thus it has something to offer for everyone. On the following pages you will find some basic information about Warsaw. Where to go, how to get around, where and what to eat, where and what to drink, what you should try and what is a must-see in the capital of Poland. The list was created and certified for excellence from Albert Wierzbicki, one of the co-organisers of this year's Polyglot Gathering, and a local tour guide from [Orange Umbrella Free Tours](#).



**ORANGE UMBRELLA
FREE TOUR WARSAW**

HISTORY

Poland is a country with at least 1066 years of history. The beginning of our country is said to be the baptism of our first duke Mieszko I. It happened in 966. His son, Bolesław I Chrobry, became the first king of Poland in 1025. But Warsaw (most probably) didn't exist yet...

Warsaw was mentioned for the first time in 1313. As you might guess, Warsaw was not the only capital of Poland then, even though it is one today. Previous capitals of Poland were Gniezno and Kraków. Warsaw got its function at the end of the XVI century (for Warsaw people in 1596, in Kraków they say different thing). This is when its role started to grow. It became not only a political, but also a cultural and commercial center of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Golden era of the city lasted until 1650's when we had some terrible Swedish invasion in our country. Warsaw got devastated heavily and its population was at least halved. The new rise of Warsaw as a city, but also state's center was in XVIII century, when our kings started to build their own palaces here and there (Wilanów, Łazienki, unexisting Saxon Palace) and invested huge amounts of money in the infrastructure and party industry of the city. The last factor was probably one of many reasons why on the XIX century maps of Europe you don't see Poland. That's because in 1795 our country got finally partitioned by three neighbors of ours: Russia, Prussia and Austria. Prussia was the country that took control over Warsaw first, but very quickly one Frenchman called Napoleon Bonaparte kicked them out and gave us some autonomy (that's why we love him). The autonomy was gone with Napoleon's defeat and 100 years of history of Warsaw as a part of the Russian Empire started.

During the Russian reign many factors caused Warsaw's biggest growth in size and in population. From a city of some 80 thousand people in 1816, at the beginning of the Great War there were already 800 thousand people living here! That's partially because of the industrial revolution, quick development of medicine and sciences, but also because Warsaw was the first city in the Russian empire when you arrived there from the West. That's why the city played an important propagandic role and it simply had to be big and beautiful.

The Russians ran away in 1915 and the city was occupied by Germans. After 3 years, the Great War is over and we get independence. Warsaw gets its function again and is a capital of a new state. During this period the population of Warsaw grew to some 1 million 300 thousand people, among which more than 350 thousand are Jewish).

On the 1st of September 1939, Nazi Germany invade Poland and Warsaw is under bombing from the first our of the war. After the heroic defense of the city, it surrenders, and the Nazi occupation starts. It lasted from the 1 of October 1939 until 17 January 1945. During this period, half of the population of Warsaw is killed, among them almost all the Jewish people that are killed by the Nazis in Treblinka Death Camp (300 thousand). The others lost their lives mostly during the most cityshaping event of Warsaw's modern history: Warsaw Uprising. It started on the 1st of August and was the biggest rebellion against the Nazis on any territories that they occupied. The aim was to liberate the city before the Soviets did, so that Poland would be independent after the war. After 63 days of fights, the uprisers are forced to surrender, but they manage to include in the agreement that before the Nazis destroy the city, they will transport away all the civilians. It saved the lives of some 600 thousand people, but not their homes. After the Uprising, Germans following the order of Hitler, start to destroy the city. They go to every building, street and district they control

(Soviets are on the other side of the river) and blow them up. This lasts for 3 months and as a result the city (of 1,3 million people before the war) is destroyed 85%. That's why, most of the buildings, even the most historical ones you see, are 70 years old or younger.

After the liberation of the city, we got into the Soviet sphere of influence. It means that we are a communist country now. Fortunately, the rebuilding process of Warsaw is a nice opportunity for the government to show the unity of the workers and the desire to have the capital city back, even though it was almost completely destroyed. That's how the Old Town was rebuilt in just 6-7 years. Anyway, Warsaw before and after the war are two different cities. Outside of the historical center it was built in a new style that mostly shaped its stereotypical landscape: districts with blocks of flats, wide streets and parks here and there. Anyway, Warsaw also has some charm.

During the Solidarność movement protests in the 1980s Warsaw played a huge role, because it was a capital. Anyway, more iconic in the fight against the communist regime was Gdańsk. In Warsaw we held a very important meeting, when the communist party decided to start negotiations about the transformations with the opposition. These talks, named "Round table talks" took place in the building that now serves as the Presidential Palace of Poland. After these events we had the first democratic elections on the 4th of June 1989.

After the elections we had the first democratic government and we started our transformation. On 17th of June 1992 the first McDonald's was opened, and we understood that there is no way back. So, in 1999 we joined NATO, and in 2004 the European Union. The rest you are going to see with your own eyes. Feel free to explore Warsaw in your own unique way!

MOVING AROUND



Warsaw is famous for its well-developed public transport system. You can use four different means of transport: metro, trains, buses and trams. In the summer you can also try to get on a boat and cross the Vistula river on it, buy... tickets that can be bought online sell out faster than fresh Polish *pączki*... Anyway, using any of the four main means of transport, you will get anywhere in the city and surrounding towns. There is one type of

ticket valid in every one of them, so you don't have to worry about buying a new one every time you change the means of transport. Tickets can be bought either inside any bus or tram (prevalidated) or in a ticket machine that is located on almost every stop and station. On the bus you can only buy tickets for 75 minutes, while in the ticket machines there are following options: 20 min, 75 min, 24 hours, 72 hours, weekend ticket (from Friday 19:00 until Monday 8:00).

If you want to know how to move around, use Google Maps or a famous app in Poland called [jakdojade](#).

SIGHTSEEING:

1. Tours of Warsaw with Orange Umbrella Free Tour



**ORANGE UMBRELLA
FREE TOUR WARSAW**

If you checked the food-and-drink spots in Warsaw, maybe it's time to get to know the city? Don't hesitate then to join one of the free tours organized by the oldest Free Tour company in Warsaw: Orange Umbrella. There are four different tours to choose from: Old Town, Best of Warsaw, Second World War in Warsaw and Jewish Warsaw. All of them are extremely informative and after joining them you will understand the place you are in better. Feel free to book the tour on the [Orange Umbrella website](#) and see you on the tour!

2. Kampinoski Park Narodowy

Not far from our venue you will find one of the biggest Polish National Parks - Kampinoski. It's a natural forest with old trees, muds, small lakes and rivers, wild



animals and, in the early June, a lot of green color around you. You can just take a walk, as you don't need any tickets. If you want to learn something about the park, go to *Muzeum Puszczy Kampinoskiej*, close to the nearest Park entrance from our venue.

3. Chopin's birthplace in Żelazowa Wola 15

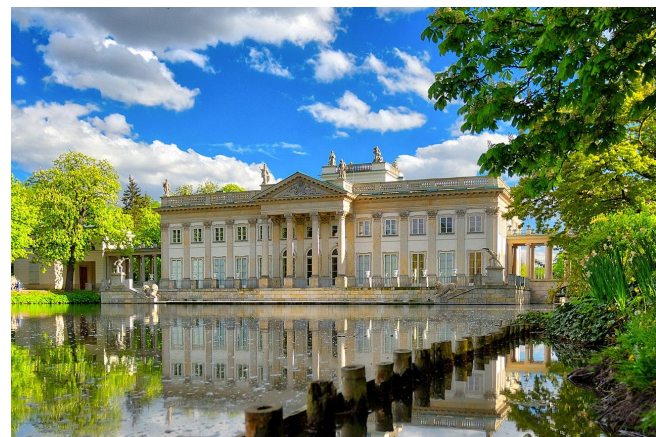
The most popular Polish artist on Spotify was born 112 years ago in a villa in Żelazowa Wola. His name is Fryderyk Chopin and he is followed by more than 5,5 million people (the second most famous one, singer sanah has "only" 2,2 million) on the most popular music streaming platform. Chopin played his first solo concert in Warsaw at the age of 8. When he was twenty, he went on a European concert tour and never came back (want to know why? [Join](#) the Best of Warsaw tour with Orange Umbrella). He always remembered about his country of origin and his works are highly influenced by Polish folklore. Anyway, if you want to see where he lived in his early years, what is his entire story and start your adventure with Chopin's music - you should visit the museum in Żelazowa Wola.



On the 14th of June, before the PG opening ceremony, we might organize tours to the museum, if you wish.

4. Łazienki Park

While in Warsaw, you cannot miss Łazienki Park, our most famous park complex, created and used by our last king Stanisław August Poniatowski. Especially in spring, when everything is blooming, the trees are green and squirrels and peacocks are walking around you. Łazienki offers you several attractions like: Botanical Garden, Łazienki Museum, Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art, Biały Domek, Chopin Monument, Stara Oranżeria and many others... Be aware that as it's a place that everyone visits, there will be some amount of people, especially if it's sunny. Don't worry though, it's not easy to make 76ha park overcrowded, so you will have a place for you, your friends and/or your thoughts.



5. Praga, Żabkowska Street and Centrum Praskie Koneser



If you want to feel the most authentic Warsaw vibe, go to the east/left shore of the Vistula river and stroll around Praga. There are no Old Towns, Palaces or Villas, but it has something else to offer. As Praga was not destroyed as much as the other side of the river, it has some buildings older than 70 years old! Those are mostly old factories and blocks of flats for the workers of these factories. As you get to Dworzec Wileński (Metro line 2 station), head towards Żąbkowska street, try some nice cafe or restaurant in the area and then go to Centrum Praskie Koneser, Warsaw iconic post industrial zone with art galleries, exhibitions, restaurants, cafes and last, but not least: Vodka Museum. Praga is simply a place to walk around. If you have time for that and the weather is pleasant, consider visiting Park Skaryszewski (in the opinion of many Warsaw people, the beautiest park in the city).

6. Wilanów Park and Palace

Wilanów is another Warsaw must-see. It's a residence built outside of Warsaw by one of our kings - Jan III Sobieski. It is often called the beautiest palace in Poland. You can



enjoy its beauty both from outside and inside, where you will see frescoes, sculptures and decorations made by famous European artists from the second part of the XVII century. Wilanów is definitely a place you should consider visiting if you have some more time in Poland's capital.

**TO SEE MORE OF PLACES WORTH SEEING, CHECK THE
GOOGLE MAP OF PG [HERE](#)**

MUSEUMS

There are many museums in Warsaw that are worth visiting. We've chosen several of them and made a list with prices, days when they are closed and when it's possible to enter for free. Clicking on the name of a museum, you will be redirected to its webpage for more info.

Museums in random order :)

Name	Price	Day off	Free day	Address	Nearest stop/station
Zamek Królewski (Royal Castle)	50 PLN	Monday	Wednesday	plac Zamkowy 4	Tram/Bus: Stare Miasto Bus: Plac Zamkowy
Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum	11 PLN	Sunday, Monday	Tuesday	Freta 16	Tram/Bus: Stare Miasto Bus: Plac Krasińskich
Museum of Warsaw	25 PLN	Monday	Thursday	rynek Starego Miasta 28-42	Tram/Bus: Stare Miasto Bus: Plac Zamkowy
The Heritage Interpretation Center	15 PLN	Monday	Thursday	Brzozowa 11/13	Tram/Bus: Stare Miasto Bus: Plac Zamkowy
National Museum	25 PLN	Monday	Tuesday	Al. Jerozolimskie 3	Tram/Bus: Muzeum Narodowe
Life under communism museum	26 PLN	-	-	Piękna 28/34	Tram/Bus: Plac Konstytucji
POLIN Museum of the history of Polish Jews	45 PLN	Tuesday	Thursday	Mordechaja Anielewicza 6	Tram/Bus: Muranów Bus: Nalewki-Muzeum
Warsaw Uprising Museum	30 PLN	Tuesday	Monday	Grzybowska 79	Tram/Bus: Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego
Wilanów Palace Museum	35 PLN	-	Thursday	Stanisława Kostki Potockiego 10/16	Bus: Wilanów
Zachęta - National Gallery of Art	20 PLN	Monday	Thursday	plac Stanisława Małachowskiego 3	Bus: Zachęta Bus: plac Małachowskiego Tram: Królewska
Ethnography Museum	19 PLN	Monday	-	Kredytowa 1	Bus: Zachęta Bus: plac Małachowskiego

					Tram: Królewska
Polish Vodka Museum	65 PLN	Monday	-	plac Konesera 1	Bus: Korsaka Bus: Markowska Tram/Bus: Ząbkowska
Łazienki Królewskie	45 PLN	Monday	Friday	Agrykola 1	Bus: Agrykola Bus: Łazienki Królewskie
Geological Museum	0 PLN	Saturday	every day	Rakowiecka 4	Tram/Bus: Rakowiecka Metro: Pole Mokotowskie Bus: Wiśniowa
Copernicus Science Center	40/42 PLN	Monday	-	Wybrzeże Kościuszkowski e 20	Metro: Centrum Nauki Kopernik
Chopin Museum Warsaw	25 PLN	Monday	Wednesday	Okólnik 1	Metro: Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet

FOOD

Warsaw by default has a lot to offer when it comes to food. It's hard to find not tasty food in Poland. More to that, Warsaw has some elements of its unique culinary culture that you should try. Also, Warsaw for years has been among the best cities for vegans. National Geographic included us in the top eight cities in the world in their vegan-friendly [ranking](#) in 2021.

Anyway, whatever type of food is your favourite, you will find everything here. That's why the restaurants I mentioned can help you find your style, but you can also discover something by yourself.

POLISH FOOD:

1. Gościniec, Piwna 12/14/lu3; Podwale 19; Krakowskie Przedmieście 29



Gościniec is a network of restaurants with Polish food in the Old Town. If you don't know yet what you would like to try, it's the best choice. [Here](#) you can try everything from *pierogi* with different fillings, *kotlet schabowy* (pork chop), famous *żurek* soup, served in bread instead of a plate and tartar steak.

2. U Fukiera, rynek Starego Miasta 27

If your wallet is a little bit fatty and you want to make it skinnier, try “U Fukiera” which is the oldest restaurant in Warsaw. Located at the Old Town Market Square, it has to offer the same [menu](#) it offered to the Polish *szlachta* (noble men) visiting the capital for the parliamentary meetings. You can start with *paszтет z dziczyzny* (pate from game meat), follow up with *flaki po warszawsku* soup and add some fish, for example *sandacz z pieca*. Don't forget to let the fish swim in some *piwo* (beer).

WARSZAWA FOOD:

1. Pyzy, flaki gorące, Brzeska 29/31; Podwale 5



Established a couple of years ago “Pyzy, flaki gorące” had a goal to make traditional Warsaw bazaar food great again. Long story short, before shopping malls were invented, people shopped at these gloomy, cramped and loud places. Both before the second world war and after, everyone in Warsaw will recognize names like Różyc or Kercelak which were the centers of local life. As people spent their entire days there, they needed to [eat](#)

[something](#). So the Polish fast food, long before kebabs, and a little bit before *zapiekanka* was invented, used to be *pyzy*. [Pyzy](#) are potato balls with different sauces (depending on what the housewives get in the local shop). The restaurant decided to do the same today: serving the potato balls with [different types of sauces](#): meat, vegetarian, vegan and sweet. All served in... a jar instead of a plate, as on the bazaars you gave it back to the cook so the next day someone eats his *pyzy* from the same jar. Ecology and recycling before it was cool!

2. Gruby Jasek; Elektoralna 24



As Warsaw's history stopped after the Warsaw Uprising and the city had to rise from the ashes, we lost many of our old legendary places. One of them was "Gruby Jasek". Led by a charismatic owner Józef Ładowski, it used to be a pretty democratic place in the pre war Warsaw. It was the place where you could have found anyone, from poor Jewish traders, through some junior mafia members, through their bosses all the way to the government officials. "Gruby Jasek" was [Warsaw in miniature](#). Unfortunately, during the Second World War, both the building where the restaurant was located and the entire street was destroyed and never came back. Now "Gruby Jasek" tries to revive its old greatness and offers you an authentic menu, served here before the war, with some innovations required by modern culinary art. My [menu](#) offer is *stołeczna meduza - zimne nóżki* (meat in a jelly), *rosółek z kluseczkami* (chicken soup), *kaczusia w pięknym ancugu* (duck with sauce, cabbage and potato balls) and drink some *kompot* to it. As you unfortunately see, it's not so vegan friendly...

VEGAN FOOD:

1. Krowarzywa, Hoża 29/31, Marszałkowska 27/35, Puławska 34



At least for me, the Warsaw vegan revolution started with Krowarzywa. They started to offer vegan burgers in one small restaurant in the city center, and today you can choose one of eight of their spots. You can [choose between](#) many types of burgers, from the plant ones to the vegan fishes, vegan chickens and other types of meats. Besides burgers, you can also try kebabs, wraps and salads. Don't forget about fries!

2. Lokal Vegan Bistro, Krucza 23/31

Ever wanted to try some well known meaty food, but in a vegan version? That's exactly what Lokal Vegan Bistro [offers](#)! This place is known the most for its traditional polish *kotlet schabowy*, but made vegan. You can also try some spaghetti carbonara and tomato soup, which are also delicious!

3. Tel Aviv Urban Food, Poznańska 11; al. Niepodległości 142A

Tel Aviv is one of the leaders of vegan trends in Warsaw. [Serving](#) Middle Eastern food in a vegan way is what made it famous. Mix of many tastes, spices, fillings and vegetables makes your visit at Tel Aviv unforgettable. Try their *hummus*, vegan shawarma and amazingly tasty (and spicy) *harira* soup.

FAST FOOD (TRADITIONAL)

1. Zapiexy Luxusowe, Widok 19



If you read the “warsaw food” part of this guide, you’ve seen the magic word *zapiekanka*. It’s simply a baguette, cut in half, with mushrooms, cheese and ketchup. But that’s the most basic version of this polish fast food. In any place they serve zapiekanka, you will find different versions. They can be either inspired by some other foods, regions of the world or well-known pizza types. Zapiekanka should be accompanied by *oranżada*, which is a type of lemonade, we drank a lot in Poland during communism, when there was no coca-cola. Now they are cool again.

Other places that serve zapiekanka:

2. Zapiékanki Panda, Stefana Żeromskiego 29a
3. Pałaszowanie, Mokotowska 12

And many others in the area of the Old Town.

4. Bar “Przy Dunaju”, Nowomiejska 1/3

During the communist times, especially in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when Poland was hit by an economic crisis, shortages were noted in every branch of daily life of Poles. Food was hard to get in official ways, as both the shops and factories and farms were state-owned. People were buying groceries basing on the connections they had. Long story short, there was no meat on the shelves. And if there was any, you needed to wait hours to watch how people in the queue before you are buying it. That’s the moment when fast food shops needed to switch from selling *kielbasa* or hot dogs and propose something else to the nation. That’s how *bułka z pieczarkami* (basically hot dog with mushroom filling) was invented. It’s neither tasty, nor filling. Maybe that’s why today you will find it only in one place, in Bar “Przy Dunaju” that serves this delicacy since 1974. If you are intrigued, give it a try.

COFFEE AND SWEETS:

1. Proces Kawki; Księdza Ignacego Kłopotowskiego 23/25



Probably one of the most hygge coffee shops you've ever seen. Proces Kawki is a perfect place to sit along with your friends, work on your laptop, read a book or do simply anything you need. Located in a house in Praga district, Proces Kawki offers you a lot of space inside, with a chilly atmosphere and also a huge garden where you can enjoy the first days of Warsaw summer, drinking the best coffee mixes in the city. The menu changes every day, as new beans arrive at the shop, so be sure

to ask what they just prepared. And when it comes to cakes, you should definitely try some *sernik* or *szarlotka*.

2. Pijalnia Czekolady Wedel; Szpitalna 8 (the original place); Krakowskie Przedmieście 45; Freta 13/15 and several others.



In Warsaw we can be proud of many things, but when it comes to food the leader will be *Ptasie Mleczko*. This delight is a trademark of the most famous Polish chocolate factory E. Wedel. Today the company is famous not only for *Ptasie Mleczko*, but has some other chocolate sweets to offer. In one of their coffee shops you can try tasteful chocolate of all types, with different fillings and seasonal ingredients. Be sure to buy some of their products to take back home!

3. Pracownia "Zagoździński", Górczewska 15



You already read this word here: *pączki*. Don't ever call them donuts! It's *pączki*. You can find them in any bakery, coffee shop or cake shop. But when it comes to legends - Zagoździński is the most famous *pączki* place in Warsaw. Be sure to visit them early, because normally at around noon the bakery closes, when they have sold everything. On Fat Thursday (*Tłusty Czwartek* - *pączki* eating day in Poland) people start to stay in the queue for Zagoździński's *pączki* at 3-4 a.m. In February!

ALCOHOL:

1. Same Krafty, Nowomiejska 10

The Polish craft beer revolution started several years ago and as an effect we have hundreds of different breweries in the entire country. you can find some of them at Same Krafty.

2. Beer Station PUB, Lwowska 17

Led by Belarusian political refugees that left their country because of the repressions they faced, Beer Station offers you 12 different beers every day, not only from Poland, but from other European breweries as well. If you like some of the beers you drank, you can take them home too!

3. Pianka, Zgoda 12

Great place to start your evening. You can choose one of many drinks and shots that the bar offers. Check the “happy hours” for today, as you will get 2 drinks for the price of one.

4. Czipito, Mazowiecka 9

You might have seen a photo from a shot bar with more than a hundred different shots to offer. It's here. Czipito is another great spot to start your night, if you prefer to start it fast. Each shot comes for 6 zł, which is less than 1,5 euro. Take some friends to have some experience with drinks on fire, absinthe and shot collections.

FOR MORE WARSAW INFORMATIONS FIND ALBERT AROUND THE PG VENUE OR MESSAGE HIM ON TELEGRAM (@abletr) OR BASICALLY ASK ANY POLISH PARTICIPANT, BECAUSE EACH OF US MIGHT LIKE (OR HATE) DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT OUR CAPITAL.