

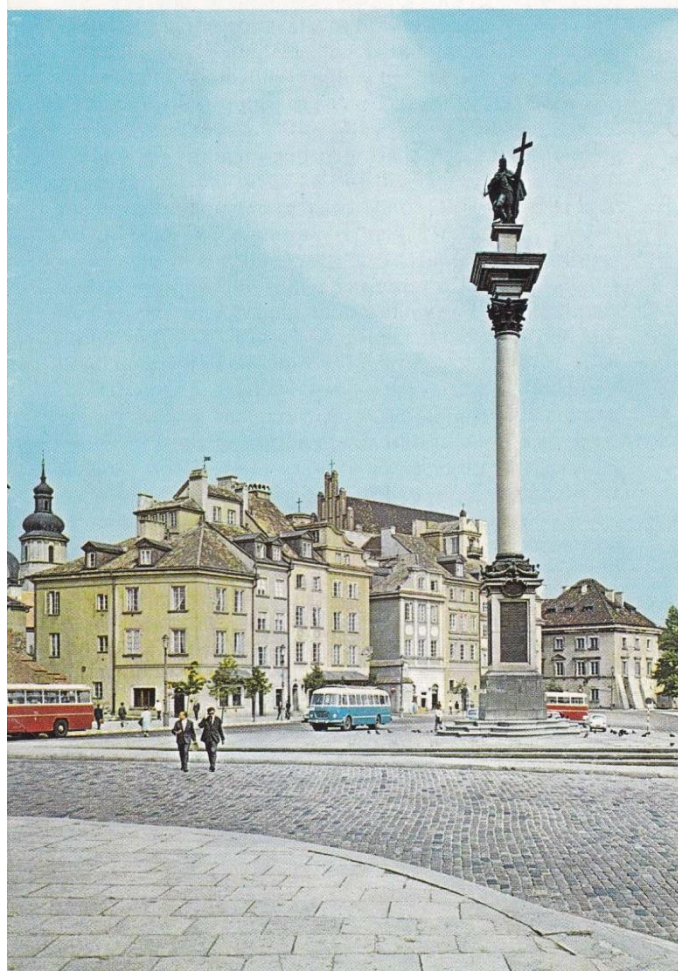


SAS CITY PORTRAIT

Warsaw

6th ed.

SAS SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES



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The information given in this booklet is based on facts available in November 1974.



Front cover: The statue of King Sigismund III in the center of Plac Zamkowy

Introduction

Many cities in Europe have been rebuilt since the Second World War, but none have been reconstructed in such a painstaking manner as Warsaw.

Not only have impressive modern buildings been erected such as the Palace of Culture and Science, the Tenth Anniversary Stadium and the "Sciana Wschodnia"/"Eastern Side" – Marszałkowska Street – but many of the historic buildings have been faithfully restored to their former glory. After being demolished during the Second World War, the Royal Castle has been rebuilt as a result of thousands of voluntary donations and subscriptions. Like a giant jigsaw, the old parts of Warsaw have been put together again; in some cases photographs were not available and the planners had to consult paintings in order to find the correct layout of the buildings.

Stroll through the Old City (Stare Miasto) and you will witness the fascinating result – the rebuilt 14th-century Cathedral of St. John, the Old Town Market Place and the walls and towers of the 14th-century Barbican.

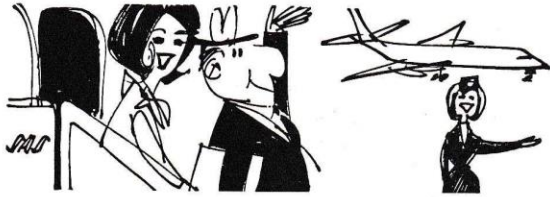
Here is a unique atmosphere, the restoration tending to underline the great age of the city and the monuments reminding one of many famous Poles such as poet Adam Mickiewicz; author Henryk Sienkiewicz; Copernicus who in the 16th-century discovered the earth revolved around the sun; composer Chopin; Tadeusz Kosciuszko who fought in Washington's revolutionary army, and Maria Curie Skłodowska, who with her husband discovered radium.

With over 1,200,000 inhabitants Warsaw is the largest city in Poland and the major commercial and cultural center. It is a city bristling with activity, with a progressiveness which seems to be reflected in the ever-present scaffolding, the shops and offices of Marszałkowska Street and the lively school of modern painting.

Warsaw also possesses a quiet elegance best seen on the Krakowskie Przedmieście Street lined with old churches and palaces – including the Church of the Holy Cross where Frederic Chopin's heart is enshrined and the Royal Summer Palace with an 18th-century theater situated in the Łazienki Park.

For the visitor Warsaw is an intriguing mixture of new and old, with a cultural feast of dramatic plays, opera and ballet at its 25 theaters, and an interesting selection of restaurants from 400-year-old wine cellars to an establishment where legend says a dragon once lived.

Warsaw is also in a good location for visiting the surrounding countryside with the magnificent Kampinos



Forest and elk reserve only 12 miles (20 km) away and Chopin's home at Zelazowa Wola some 30 miles (50 km) away.

You will find the essence of your visit to Poland is its uniqueness – browse for antiques in a DESA shop, visit Cracow to see the age-old Juvenalia masquerade, join 100,000 spectators at a cycle race in Warsaw's vast stadium, or watch a "royal ballet" performance on the terrace of the 17th-century palace of King Jan III Sobieski at nearby Wilanow.

Your arrival in Warsaw

Your SAS plane lands at Okęcie Airport where you proceed direct to passport control if you do not need a visa. If you are entitled to obtain a visa on arrival, go to the ORBIS desk to complete the visa questionnaire. While waiting for your passport, with visa, to be returned to you, you can exchange your currency at a prescribed daily minimum rate at the same desk. Polish regulations prohibit the import of Polish currency into the country but you are allowed to take in an unlimited amount of foreign currency if you record it on the declaration which is certified by the customs officer. Everybody is obliged to fill in this declaration which must be retained and shown on leaving Poland. (Before changing your money back make sure to keep zlo 40, which is the airport tax for passengers boarding in Warsaw.) You will find foreign exchange counters at the Central Railway Station, The Narodowy Bank Polski (Polish National Bank), 5 Jasna Street (D5) and its branches, and at all ORBIS hotels as well as ORBIS branches at 16 Bracka Street (E6), and 13 Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street (E3).

AT ORBIS exchange counters, you will be given a special tourist rate of zlo 33 to US\$1 when money is exchanged. Transportation to destinations abroad may not be paid for with these sums.

The monetary unit in Poland is the zloty (zlo) divided into 100 groszy. Banknotes of the following denominations are in circulation: 1,000 zlo, 500 zlo, 100 zlo, 50 zlo, 20 zlo, and coins: 10 zlo, 2 zlo, 1 zlo, 50 gr., 20 gr., 5 gr.

At Okęcie Airport all SAS passengers are taken care of by LOT, the Polish Airline, and LOT ground staff will be present to assist you on your arrival. LOT porters will take your baggage to the LOT bus waiting in front of the airport building, or to the taxis. Bus fare to the Town Terminal is zlo 5 and the trip takes about 20 minutes. Taxi fare to the central hotels, from the airport, is about zlo 35. The Air Terminal is at 9 Warynskiego Street (E8) in the central part of the city with a taxi stand on the opposite side of the street.

Entry regulations

Nationals of Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway) are granted visa on arrival at airport. Visas are not required for Swedish citizens. The visa fee is \$7 with an obligatory exchange of foreign currency per day differing according to nationality.

Visitors staying in Poland more than 30 days must register within three days of their arrival. In Warsaw the registration is made at Komenda Miejska Milicji Obywatelskiej (Polish Police) at Pałac Mostowskich (B2), open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Outside Warsaw – at any District Police Station (Powiatowa or Wojewodzka Komenda Milicji Obywatelskiej).

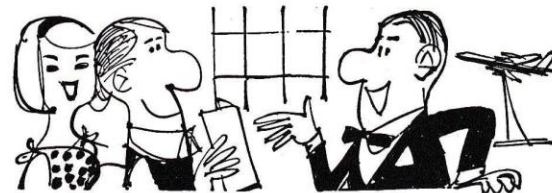
Hotels must make this registration on behalf of their guests. If other than hotel accommodation is used the local Biuro Meldunkowe (Notification Office) must be advised about the arrival and departure of visitors to and from Poland. The notification should be made by the landlord.

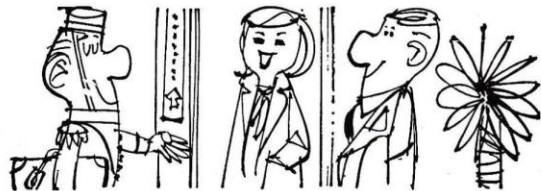
Non-compliance with this ruling will delay departure since visitors cannot leave Poland if the obligatory registration has not been made.

Please make sure that your visa has not expired before your departure date as this may also delay your departure – note that the word "month" (miesiac) in a Polish visa covers 30 days irrespective of number of days in the actual month.

American and Canadian citizens are expected to register with the U.S. Embassy, 29/31 Ujazdowskie Aleje (F7) and the Canadian Embassy, 2/8 ulica Piekna (F7).

Polish entry regulations allow you to take into the country, free of duty, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars (or 250 grs. tobacco) and two liters of alcoholic beverage.





Hotels

It is advisable to make reservations as early as possible as there is a shortage of accommodation, particularly during the summer months. Ask your local Travel Agent or SAS Office to help you.

The hotel standard in Warsaw is improving but do not expect to find international de luxe hotels similar to those in the USA or Western Europe.

There are, however, a number of good high class hotels, which we have listed. For a single room with bath expect to pay from 500–900 zlo (incl. municipal tax) and for a double room with bath 730–1,000 zlo per night (incl. municipal tax).

To help you further we list some of the better-known hotels:

Bristol Hotel* (E3)
42/44 Krakowskie,
Przedmieście Street.
Tel. 26 32 41.

Forum Hotel* (E6)
Corner Marszałkowska and
Jerozolimskie. Tel. 2109.

Grand Hotel* (E7)
28 Krucza Street.
Tel. 29 40 51.

Europejski Hotel* (E3)
13 Krakowskie Przedmieście
Street. Tel. 26 50 51.

MDM Hotel (E8)
1 Pl. Konstytucji. Tel. 21 62 11.

Metropol Hotel (D6)
99a Marszałkowska Street.
Tel. 29 40 01.

Solec Hotel* (I7)
1 ul. Zagorna. Tel. 25 92 41.

* Administered by the Polish State Travel Bureau (ORBIS). Accommodation includes bed and breakfast.

Remember when checking-in and paying your hotel bill you will have to produce your receipt for the exchange of foreign currency. Please note the hotel booking day in Poland begins at 2 p.m. Voltage: 220 A.C.

Restaurants and cuisine

There is no shortage of good restaurants in Warsaw – and you will find the Polish cuisine holds some pleasant surprises for you.

In Poland one always eats à la carte and we recommend you try any of the following national specialities: roast duck with apples, venison, "bigos" (sauerkraut with sausage; practically the national dish!), "flaki" (tripe), and chicken à la polonaise.

Poland is not a wine-producing country. Polish beer, however, is light and delicious. Ask for "O.K." beer, "Zywiec" or "Gdansk Export". Vodka, of course, is a popular drink and the well-known brands are "Czysta", "Starka", "Pejsachowska" and "Zubrowka".

Expect to pay 25–30 zlo for breakfast, 90–100 zlo for lunch, 100–130 zlo for dinner (all without drinks). Restaurants commence serving meals from 1 p.m. and are usually open until midnight.

There are numerous cozy cafés in Warsaw and during the summer months you will probably choose one of the many pavements cafés for your mid-morning beverage.

All the leading hotels have their own restaurants – and, in addition, there are many other good eating places. The following list includes some of the best known:

Baszta (off map)
418 Puławska Street.
Tel. 43 13 60.
Polish dishes.

Budapest-Cristal (E9)
15 Marszałkowska Street.
Tel. 25 47 33.
Hungarian dishes.

Fukier (D1)
27 Rynek Starego Miasta.
Tel. 31 39 18.
Wine cellar, established for
400 years.

Kameralna (F5)
16 Foksal Street. Tel. 26 51 29.

Kamienne Schodki (D1)
26 Rynek Starego Miasta,
Old Town Market Square.
Tel. 31 08 22.
Speciality: Roast-duck.

Kongresowa (C6)
Pałac Kultury i Nauki.
Tel. 20 02 11 ext. Kongresowa.
Opens at 8 p.m. except Mondays.

Krokodyl (D1)
19/23 Rynek Starego Miasta,
Old Town Market Square.
Tel. 31 44 27.

Rycerska (C1)
9/11 Szeroki Dunaj.
Tel. 31 36 68.

Szanghai (E7)
Marszałkowska Street.
Tel. 28 82 86.
Chinese dishes.

Staropolska (E4)
8 Krakowskie Przedmieście
Street. Tel. 26 90 70.

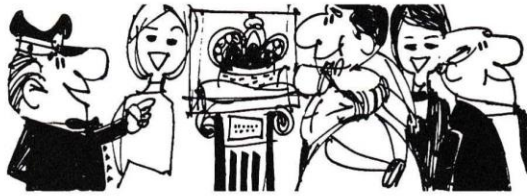
Trojka (D6)
Pałac Kultury i Nauki.
Tel. 20 02 11 ext. Trojka.

Kuznia (F10)
near Wilanow Palace.
Tel. 41 59 01.
Polish cuisine.

Sights and excursions

During your sightseeing tour of Warsaw try to include at least one of the 20-odd interesting museums and art galleries in your program. They are open daily (except





Mondays) and admission usually costs 2–4 zlo. Among the best known are the National Museum, 3 Al. Jerozolimskie (F6); Chopin Museum, 1 ul. Okólnik, Ostrogski Palace (F4); City of Warsaw Historical Museum, 28 Rynek Starego Miasta (D1); Polish Army Museum, 3 Al. Jerozolimskie (F6); Technological Museum, Palace of Culture and Science (D6); Maria Curie-Skłodowska Museum, 16 ul. Freta and Gallery of Modern Art, 2 Rynek Starego Miasta (D1).

In addition to the museums there are many interesting sights in Warsaw, some of them are given in the following list:

CITY INTEREST POINTS

The Old Town Market Square – Rynek Starego Miasta (D1). This old square is reconstructed according to its original design. Although the interiors of the houses are modern, the building façades have been conscientiously rebuilt as replicas of their predecessors. This is true also of streets leading from the Market Square: Zapiecek, Waski Dunaj, Nowomiejska and Freta. On the corner of Zapiecek you should note the clock with its grotesque figure hammering the hours and the stone tablet commemorating the rebirth of the Market Square in 1951–53 after its demolition in 1944. On the western side of the square is the famous Krokodyl restaurant and café. The café is on the ground floor while the restaurant is in the medieval cellars whose Gothic vaults are still preserved. The most magnificent building on this side of the square is at the corner of the Waski Dunaj Street. Originally a 14th-century house of the Mazovian princes, it today houses the Institute of History.

On the northern side of the Market square is the Warsaw Historical Museum in the house called **Pod Murzynkiem** (which means “Under the Little Negro”), easily recognizable because of the sculpture of a negro head. Another museum, the **Adam Mickiewicz Museum**, is on the eastern side of the square, and nearby, at the corner of Celna Street, the House of Culture is installed in one of the old burghers’ houses. On the southern side you will find the restaurant, Pod Bazyliżkiem (“under the Basilisk”), where, according to legend, a dragon once hid in the vault and killed people with its fiery breath and ferocious stare.

Barbican – Barbakan (C1). From the Market Square walk up Nowomiejska Street to the Barbican, an old fort which in medieval times was a defense post for the city gate. Part of the old city walls may be seen at the corner of Długa Street and Freta Street.

Freta Street (C1). This street leads into the “New Town” – **Nowe Miasto**, the area of medieval Warsaw outside the city walls. No. 16, now a museum, is the birthplace of Marie Curie-Skłodowska.

Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Kosciol Najswietszej Marii Panny (D1). Continuing along Freta Street you reach the New Town Market Square, dominated by the domed Church of the Sisters of the Holy Sacraments dating from 1609. Further to the right is the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a beautiful Gothic tower. This church is the oldest in Warsaw, founded in 1409 and reconstructed in 1948–58.

Castle Square – Plac Zamkowy (D3). A granite column with the statue of King Sigismund III in the center of the square is a reproduction of the original monument which was erected in 1634 and destroyed in 1944. The 15th-century Royal Castle which has given its name to the square was also destroyed but has now been rebuilt. In Castle Square (eastern side) right on the edge of the Vistula escarpment, stands St. Anne’s Church. Built in 1454 in Gothic style (fragment to be seen on the Vistula side), it was later rebuilt in Baroque although its façade is classical, from 1788. Where Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street joins Castle Square is a sculpture of the Virgin Mary (1683). Krakowskie Przedmiescie is the first in the series of streets, known as the Castle-Belvedere-Wilanow Highway. Throughout history this has been, and still is, a magnificent and important axis.

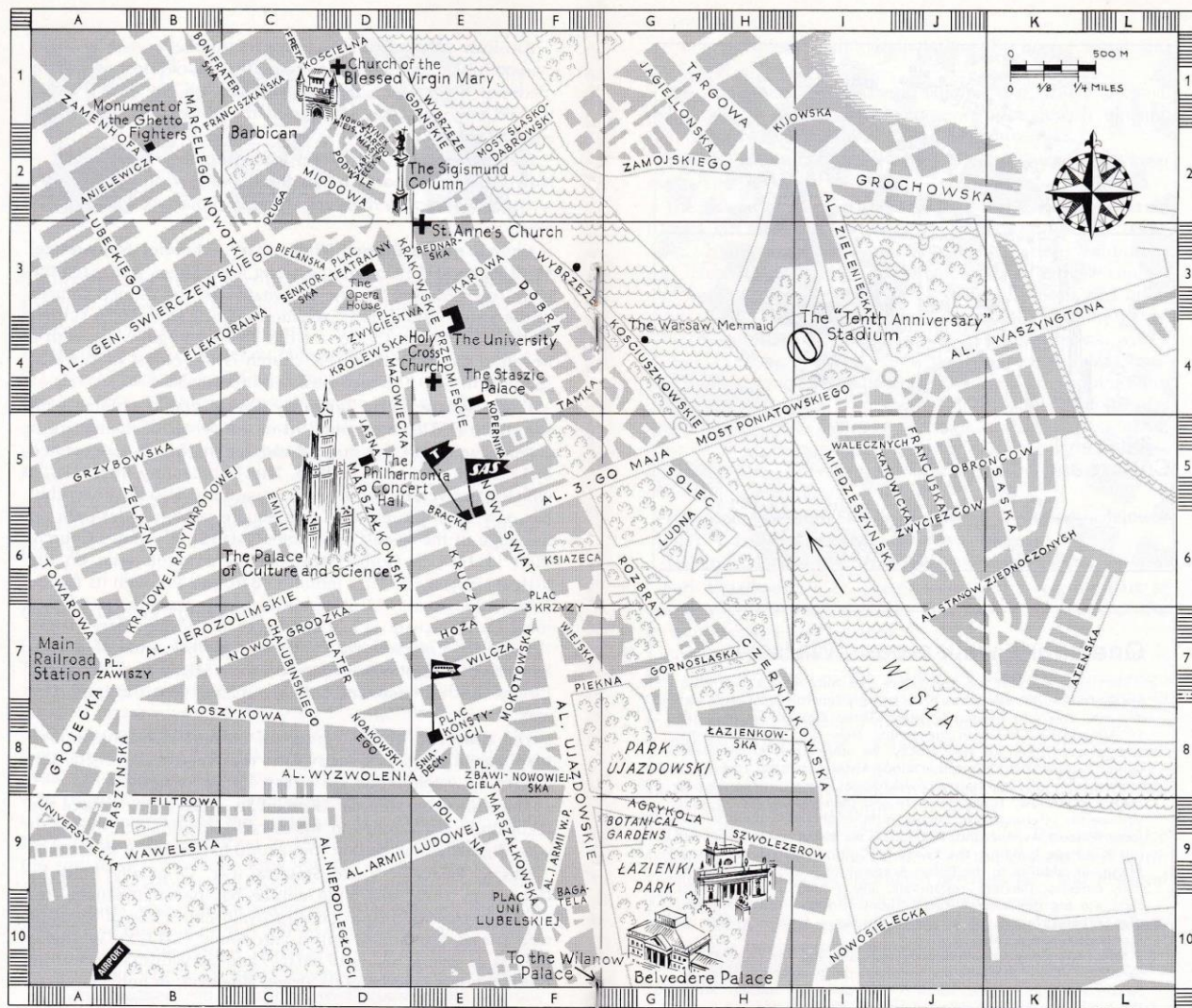
The University (E4). A group of ancient mansions, among them Kazimierz Palace, today form the Warsaw University. The University was founded more than 150 years ago.

The Holy Cross Church – Kosciol Sw. Krzyza (E4). One of the reconstructed churches in Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street. It was originally built during the second half of the 17th century.

Staszic Palace – Pałac Staszica (E4). Originally built by Corazzi in 1823, this large edifice has been attractively restored. In front of the palace is Thorvaldsen’s statue of Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous Polish astronomer (1473–1543). This is the last of several beautiful palaces and mansions characteristic of Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street. However, in between these

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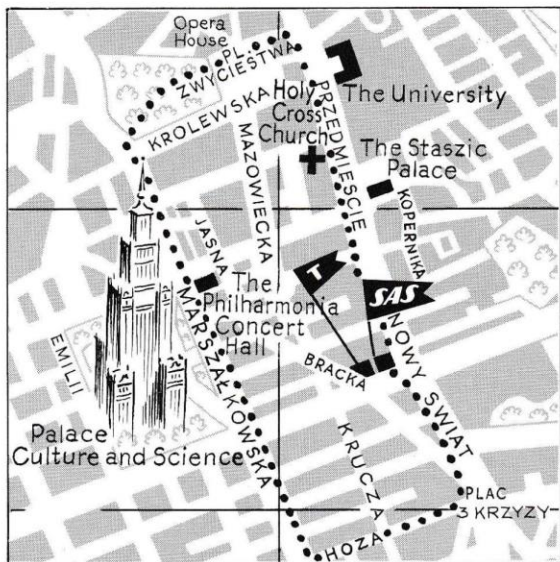
Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (E6) is located where lines drawn from "E" and "6" cross each other.

Interesting sights in Warsaw

- | | |
|---|---|
| (D1) The Old Town Market Square. | (D5) The Philharmonia Concert Hall. |
| (C1) Barbican – ancient city fortress. | (D6) Palace of Culture and Science. |
| (C1) Freta Street. | (A7) Main Railroad Station. |
| (D3) The Opera House. | (D1) Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. |
| (D3) Castle Square. | (B2) Monument of the Ghetto Fighters. |
| (E4) The University. | (G9) The Botanical Gardens and the Łazienki Park. |
| (E4) The Holy Cross Church. | (G10) Belvedere Palace. |
| (E4) The Staszic Palace with the Copernicus Monument. | (F10) The Wilanow Palace. |
| (G8) Park Ujazdowski. | (I4) "Tenth Anniversary" Stadium. |
| (G4) The Warsaw Mermaid. | |

Useful addresses

-  **Tourist Information Office:**
ORBIS, 16 Bracka Street (E6).
For information telephone 26 02 71 ext. Information; cinema tickets 29 90 92, theater tickets 29 90 92.
-  **SAS Ticket Office:**
19 Nowy Swiat Street (E6), tel. 26 12 12 and 26 12 11.
Open weekdays 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Saturdays to 12.30 p.m.).
-  **Air Terminal:**
LOT (Polish Airlines), 9 Warynskiego Street (E8).
Tel. Information: 28 75 80. Reservation: 21 70 21.
Distance from city center to airport: 6 miles (10 km).



One hour's walk around Warsaw

Start your stroll at the SAS Office and turn right along Nowy Świat Street – this street has been entirely reconstructed after war damage. You will eventually reach Three Crosses Square with St. Alexander's Church in the center. Now turn right and walk along Hoża Street for two blocks. To your right is the Grand Hotel, Krucza Street. Continue along Hoża Street for one more block until you reach Marszałkowska Street, the main commercial center of Warsaw. Turn right here and then go straight on until you see the intersection of two main thoroughfares – this is where Jerozolimskie Avenue and Marszałkowska Street meet. On your left is a huge building, the Palace of Culture and Science which houses in addition to the Polish Academy of Sciences, a congress hall, cinemas, theaters, restaurants, and a night club. On your right are big department stores, shops, cinemas and cozy cafés with a backdrop of tall apartment houses – here is a view of the modern part of Warsaw.

Now walk along Marszałkowska Street and you will come to the Saski Park. Cross the park and between the park and Zwyciestwa Square you will see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Inside the tomb are engraved dates of battles from all over the world in which Polish soldiers took part. You cross the square, walk past Europejski Hotel and at this corner turn right to proceed along Krakowskie Przedmieście and Nowy Świat. You will see to your left the University and the Copernicus monument in front of Staszic Palace and be sure to take a look at No. 5 for it was in this house that Chopin lived with his parents – it now houses the Academy of Arts. Nowy Świat has many high quality shops. This is another of the streets which was devastated during the war and has been reconstructed to look exactly as it was in its original form. Continue along this street and you return to your starting point at the SAS office.

(cont'd from page 9)

are many modern buildings including the Bristol Hotel and the Europejski Hotel.

The Monument of the Ghetto Fighters (B2). This impressive monument by Rapaport commemorates the Jewish uprising against the Nazi troops in the Warsaw Ghetto, 1943.

The Philharmonia Concert Hall (D5). Sienkiewicz Street, near Marżałkowska Street.

The Palace of Culture and Science – Pałac Kultury i Nauki (D6). A gift from the Soviet Union, this colossal edifice is the most striking landmark of central Warsaw. Various institutions and scientific associations are accommodated here, including the Youth Palace with an indoor swimming pool and other sports facilities, workshops and recreational establishments. Other features are the Congress Hall (Sala Kongresowa) with a seating capacity of 3,000, three theaters, two museums and exhibition halls and restaurants. In front of the building stretches the vast Central Square, scene of parades and demonstrations, skirting the wide Marszałkowska Street, which is lined on one side with huge houses and shops, cafés and restaurants. On two sides the building is surrounded by a charming park.

The Main Railroad Station – Główny Dworzec Kolejowy (A7). At Warszawa-Główna, Towarowa Street.

The Opera House (D3), Plac Teatralny.

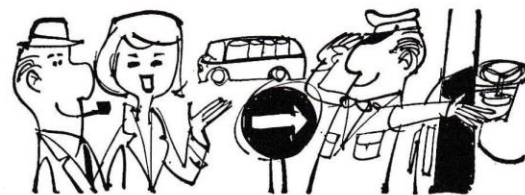
Park Ujazdowski (G8). The peaceful and lovely old park at Ujazdowskie Avenue is in the district where many of the foreign embassies are situated.

Botanical Gardens and Łazienki Park (G9). Łazienki Park is the most beautiful public garden in Warsaw. The elegant former Royal Summer Palace (18th century), the Orangery and the Theater on the Island are in this park.

The Belvedere Palace – Belweder (G10). Built in 1822, and now used as official residence for the Chairman of the Council of State, Belvedere Palace is typical of the classical style used in the early 19th century.

The Wilanow Palace (F10). This beautiful Baroque edifice and its lovely park on the outskirts of the city are well worth a visit. The palace was constructed between 1677 and 1696 and it is now a part of the Polish National Museum.

The Tenth Anniversary Stadium – Stadion Dziesięciolecia (I4). This is the largest stadium in Poland with a seating capacity of 100,000 and the scene of numerous important sports events.





The Warsaw Mermaid – Syrena Warszawska (G4). The lovely statue of the Warsaw Mermaid on the Vistula embankment, the Wybrzeze Kosciuszki. The mermaid has a shield and a sword and is the city's coat of arms.

EXCURSIONS

Don't forget to leave time for visiting the surrounding countryside. Warsaw makes a good center for excursions to many places of interest including:

Zalew Zegrzynski, 23 miles (36 km) from Warsaw, where you can rent a boat, swim, waterski and have a meal in a floating restaurant.

Zalesie Gorne, 13 miles (20 km) from Warsaw, large swimming pool, boats and cabins to rent similar in character to Zegrzynek but smaller. Both places are easily reached by bus or fast train.

Wilanów, 6 miles (10 km) south of Warsaw. Visit the park where there is a palace, one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Poland. Built in the 17th century it was the summer residence of King John III Sobieski. Many art treasures and historical relics have been collected in the Palace which is open to the public. There is also a permanent collection of Polish contemporary sculpture in the orangery and in the park.

Kampinos Forest, 13 miles (20 km) northwest of Warsaw – 216 square miles (540 sq.km) of varied trees – and magnificent herds of elk in the elk reserve. It has been a National Park since 1959.

Zelazowa Wola, 30 miles (50 km) from Warsaw. Here is a small, ivy-covered country house where Frederic Chopin was born 150 years ago. Today it is a museum in which concerts are given on Sundays.

Krakow, 190 miles (305 km) from Warsaw. The ancient capital of Poland is an interesting city with many medieval buildings. See the Royal Wawel Castle (10th–16th century), the 13th-century Gothic Church of St. Mary with its impressive Witosz altar and the picturesque market square with the old town hall.

Entertainment and night life

The Poles are fond of music – not surprising when they can count Chopin, Szymanowski and Paderewski among their ancestors – and visitors who love music should try to visit the

National Philharmonic Hall (D5), 5 ul. Jasna, where concerts are given every Friday, the Teatr Wielki – Grand Theater (D3), Opera and Ballet (D3), or the Operetka Warszawska, the Warsaw Light Opera (D7) at 49 ul. Nowogrodzka.

The Grand Theater (D3) has one of the best operatic stages in Europe. It was originally designed by Corazzi and completed in 1833, but was destroyed in 1944. Subsequently rebuilt with the latest technical equipment installed, the theater was reopened in 1965.

There are also 25 permanent theaters in Warsaw and the bold and original stage design, plus a high standard of acting, has gained Polish theater an international reputation.

Among the theaters are: Dramatyczny, Palace of Culture and Science (D6); Polski (E4), 2 ul. Karasia; Współczesny (E8), 13 ul. Mokotowska; Narodowy (D3), 3 Pl. Teatralny; Zydowski (D5), Pl. Grzybowski; Ateneum (G4), 20 ul. Stefana Jaracza; Klasyczny, Palace of Culture and Science (D6); Kameralny (F5), 16 ul. Foksal; Stanislawowski (H9), Orangery in Łazienki Park (summer only); STS (Student Theater of Satire – B3), 76 Al. Swierczeskiego; Hybrydy (student cabaret – F7), 48 ul. Mokotowska.

Or if you prefer to see a movie, you can choose from 70 cinemas screening Polish and foreign films, many of which are in their original languages, others dubbed.

Tickets for theater, opera, cinema and other entertainment can be purchased several days in advance at the ORBIS Booking Offices (at the ORBIS Hotels). There is a small extra charge for this service.

For those who want to go on to a late night restaurant or night club you might try one of the following:

Europejski Hotel (E3), Grand Hotel (E7), Bristol (E3) and Kongresowa (C6). All four establishments feature floor shows. You can dance at The Krokodyl (D1) and Rycerska (C1).

Night clubs are open from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and usually make a cover charge of 50 to 100 zlo per person.

Tipping

Hotels include a service charge on their bills. In restaurants a service charge is generally included but you may tip 10% if you so wish. In restaurants where music is provided you will find 15–20% added to the bill as extra for the entertainment. As a general guide, tip porters, wardrobe attendants and similar staff between 2–10 zlo according to the service rendered.





Shopping

Among the best buys for souvenir hunters in Warsaw are amber jewelry, cut glass, folk embroidery, rugs, carved wooden ornaments and silver and metal ware. You might also like to take a look at the modern paintings – you'll find artists displaying their works in the street at The Barbican in the Old Town – and also Polish sweets and spirits (Zubrowska vodka makes an unusual and much appreciated gift!). Shops are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with department and food stores usually opening earlier.

CEPELIA shops sell folk craft items at 2 & 5 Płac Konstytucji and 8 Rynek Starego Miasta, while DESA shops deal in antiques and modern art objects. For contemporary art visit DESA at 23 Nowy Swiat Street, and Plastyka at 1 Pł. Zamkowy. DESA shops accept foreign currency and offer zlo 40 for US\$1 when a purchase is made.

Other shops worth a call include ŁAD, 34 Nowy Swiat Street and ORNO, 83 Marszałkowska Street and 52 Nowy Swiat Street.

A useful tip – remember that goods purchased with foreign currency are duty free provided the receipt for their purchase is shown when leaving Poland. Note, however, that you can't get an export permit for antiques.

Business hours

Shops are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., chemists from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., provision stores and grocers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Banks are open from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Transportation

Though public transport is very crowded at peak hours, there are plenty of taxi stands. Taxis charge 5.50 zlo for the first km and then 4.40 zlo per km. Outside the city the taxi fare is double. Night fare (from 11 p.m.) is also double the daily rate.

A tram ticket costs 1 zlo and a bus ride in the city will cost you about 2 zlo, though bus fares can vary according to the length of the journey.

A ride in a horse-drawn carriage costs 60 zlo per hour.

During the tourist season, ORBIS arranges daily conducted

coach tours of Warsaw and its environs, and drive-yourself or chauffeur-driven cars are available through ORBIS – rates: car with driver US\$12 per day plus 10 cents per km, without driver US\$6.50 per day plus six cents per km.

Sports

As in most European countries, football (soccer), boxing, basketball, tennis, handball, horse racing, cycle racing and water skiing are popular sports.

Practically every Saturday and Sunday you can watch soccer at stadiums in Warsaw. There is also yachting and speedboat racing on the River Vistula while boxing matches are staged at the Gwardia Hall.

From May 4 to November 10 you can see horse racing at Służewiec, one of the finest race courses in Poland opened on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Admission costs 6–30 zlo. Get there by bus W (Wyscigi) from Pł. Defilad.

Climate and clothing

Poland enjoys a continental climate with a pleasantly warm summer and a rather cold winter. Summer lasts from June to September. January and February are the coldest months of the year.

During summer, only light clothing is required with a raincoat for the occasional showers and in spring and autumn you should take a light overcoat. In the winter you'll need a warm coat.

Local customs

In Poland men are expected to kiss a lady's hand when greeting or saying good bye. Foreigners are not expected to follow this custom.

Religious services

In Poland 95 % of the population is Roman Catholic. The Catholic Cathedral is situated at Ulica Swietojanska in the old town and churches are found in all parts of the city.



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