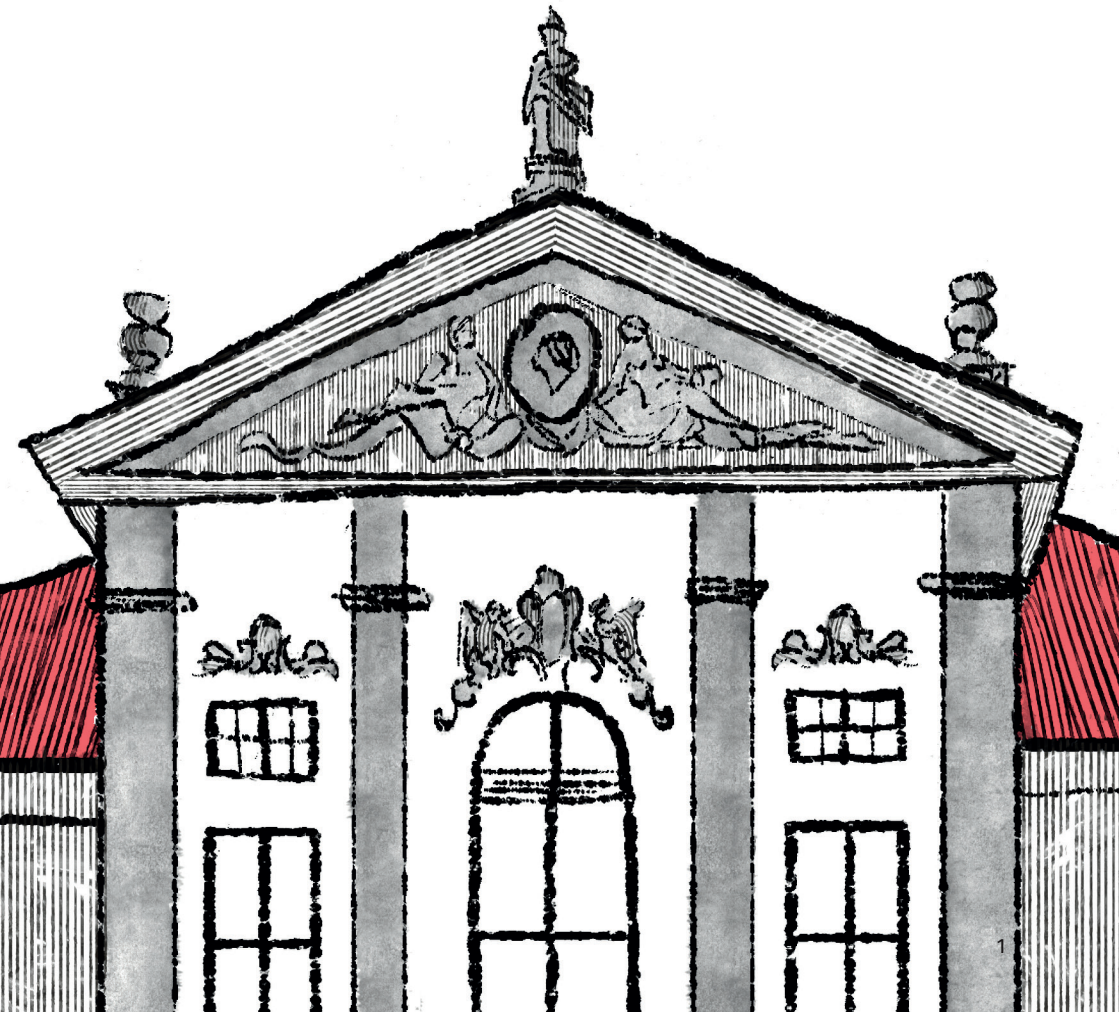


WARSAW

· BY LET'S PIEROGI ·



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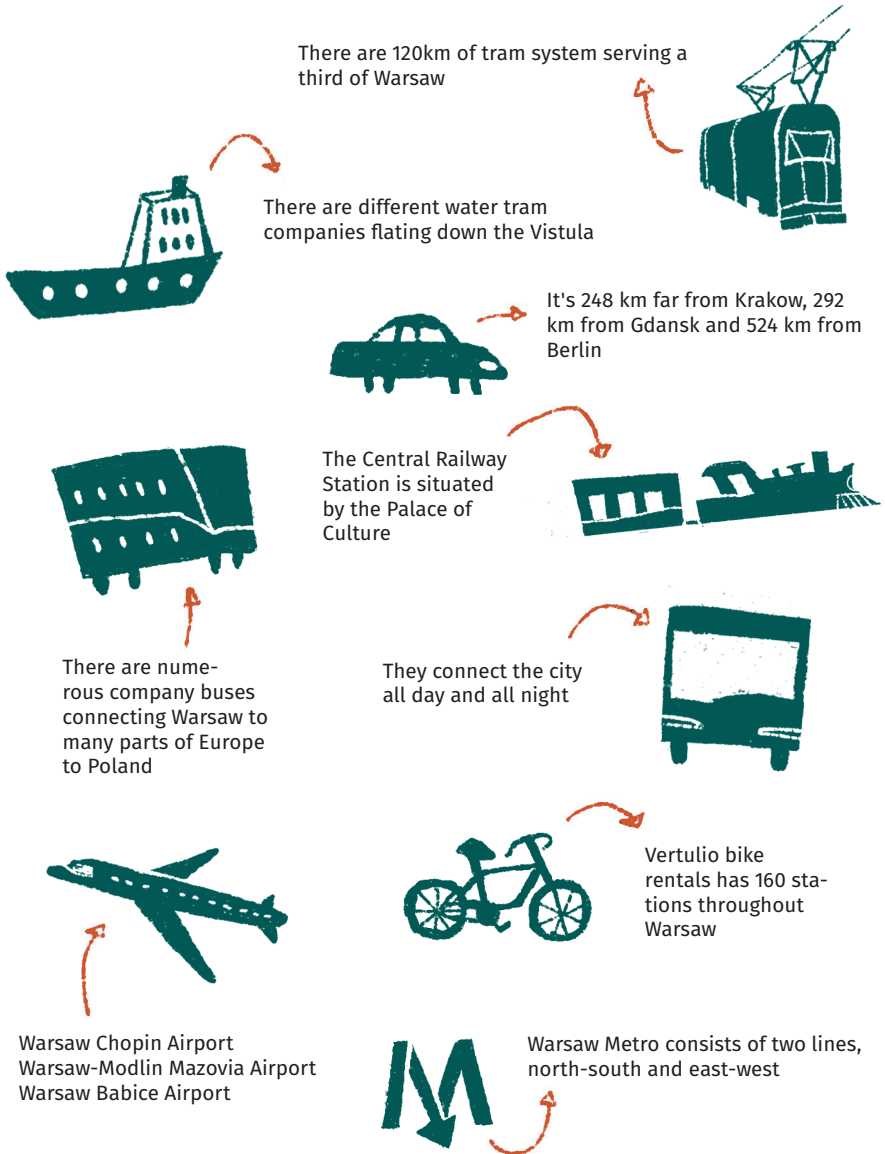
Region – Masovian
River – Vistula
Population - 1,740,000
Area - 517.24 km²
Demonym – Varsovian

There's no denying it, Warsaw has had a troubled history. Positioned at the crossroads of Central Europe, the city has been shuffled between empires and dynasties like a pawn on a chessboard. Falling under the Soviet sphere of influence Warsaw was rebuilt in stagnant, socialist fashion, and its reputation as a gloomy, concrete city was born.

But that was then, this is now. Combining elements of both East and West this is a town of complex character and hidden appeal. The dark, negative images of yesterday no longer apply as the city moves boldly forward - dynamic and developing. Changes have been meteoric, and the city now hums with energy and optimism. That energy extends to the city's thriving club and music scene. The annual calendar is filled with funky street fests, edgy art openings, and lots of highbrow, Chopin-inspired music festivals.



CITY TRANSPORT





WHAT TO SEE

Welcome to Warsaw - a city to spend several days in, to get to know its character, discover the extraordinary history of the capital of Poland and surrender to its unique atmosphere. Sprawling Warsaw may be an acquired taste and your first impressions straight off the train may not be positive. But the vibe and drive of Poland's capital are infectious if you give it time. The present character of the city is determined by three important factors: World War II, over 40 years of communist rule and the present years of transformation with its in-flow of foreign capital and investment. As any other European capital, Warsaw is full of striking contrasts. Historical monuments that were newly rebuilt after World War II coexist with numerous examples post-war housing estates of grey concrete tower blocks and ultra-modern glass office buildings built since 1989. Similarly, the hassle and bustle of its lively city centre, the constant flow of traffic and the crowds of people contrast with the serenity of the many beautiful urban parks.

*Deien dobry! I'm Chopin,
the most famous Varsovian
and I'll be your guide.
Please, follow me!*

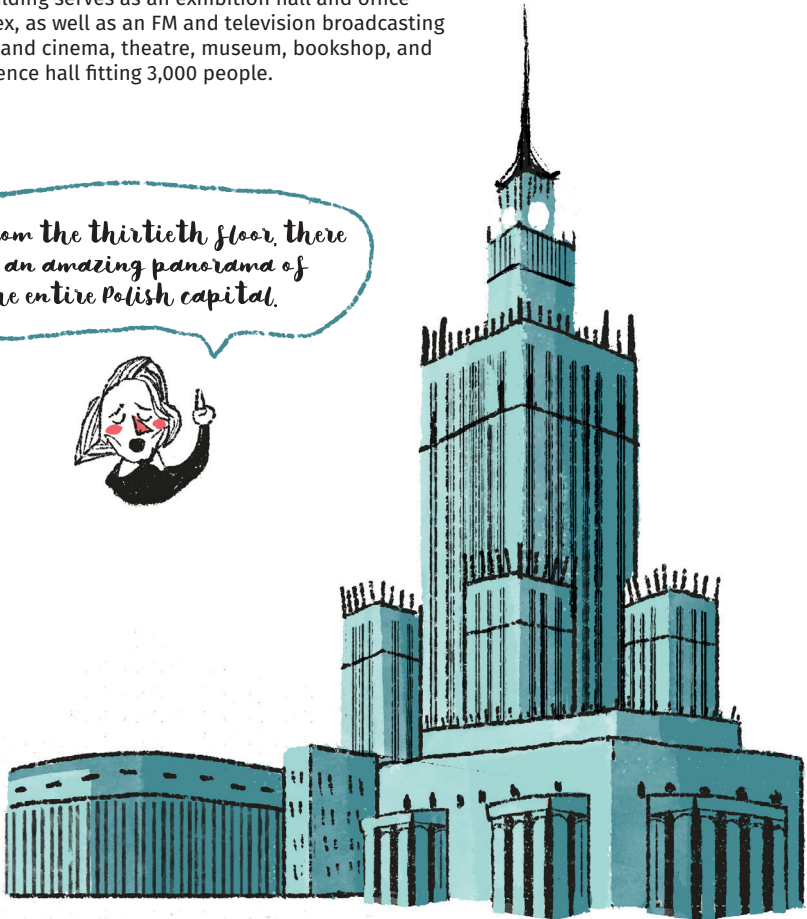


PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

This gargantuan, Gotham City-like tower shoots up from the centre of Warsaw. Raised after the Second World War during the era of Soviet domination, it remains one of the most controversial buildings in Poland, and it was only a whisker away from being pulled down when the Berlin Wall fell in '89.

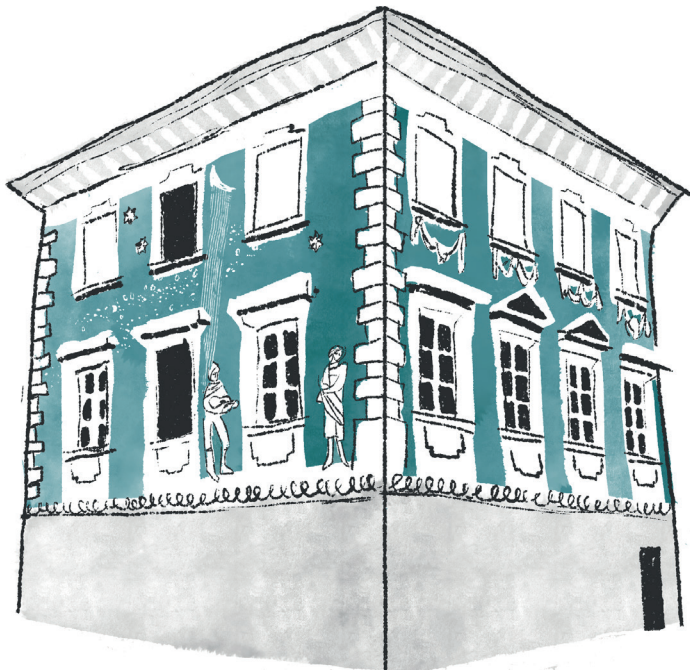
Today, the Palace of Culture (Palac Kultury) still stands as the tallest structure in the city, as well as in all of Poland. With 42 floors and over 234 metres (with 43 metres of spire alone), this epic still has the upper hand on all of its modern neighbours. At the moment, the building serves as an exhibition hall and office complex, as well as an FM and television broadcasting centre and cinema, theatre, museum, bookshop, and conference hall fitting 3,000 people.

From the thirtieth floor, there is an amazing panorama of the entire Polish capital.



NEW TOWN

This part of the city was founded at the end of the 14th century and until the 18th century was a separate town, with its own administration, town hall and church. Most of the baroque and Classicistic tenement houses surrounding the New Town Square were reconstructed after the war. At present, in the charming streets there are many restaurants and cafes. Of interest here are the Pauline, Franciscan, Dominican and Redemptorist churches and the Church of the Holy Sacrament, which were all rebuilt after World War II, and the colourful reconstructed town houses. Ulica Mostowa, the steepest street in Warsaw, leads up to the fortress that defended one of the longest bridges in 16th-century Europe.



OLD TOWN

The Old Town Square is surrounded on all sides by town houses, rebuilt after World War II with great devotion. Today it is one of the most attractive places in Warsaw. From spring to autumn it is filled with cafe tables, and also becomes an open-air gallery of contemporary art. On the square and in neighbouring streets, there are numerous restaurants and bars that are reputed to be the best in Warsaw. The whole of the Old Town is not only a tourist attraction but also a favourite place for local people, who go to walk there, and for lovers to meet.

You can start on Plac Zamkowy under King Sigismund's Column. There isn't a more popular meeting place in the city, and not a minute when isn't crowded.

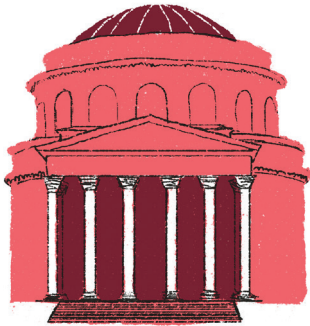
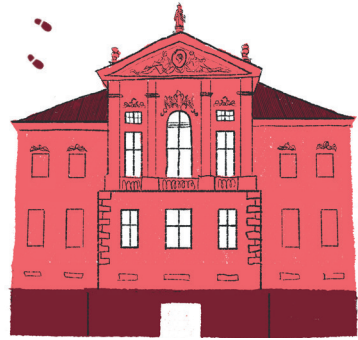


The Mermaid Statue, Warsaw's icon, stands in the very centre of Old Town Square, surrounded by a fountain



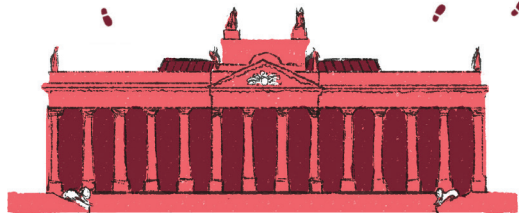
ROYAL ROUTE

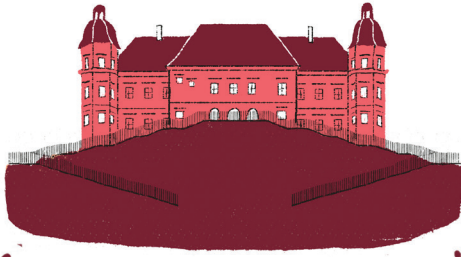
The Royal Route connects three former royal residences: the Royal Castle, the Łazienki Królewskie and the Wilanów Palace. The first section of the Royal Route is Krakowskie Przedmieście which is one of the branches of the Castle Square – it is one of the prettiest and most elegant streets in Warsaw. Krakowskie Przedmieście turns into Nowy Świat Street, with its many shops and restaurants. Near Nowy Świat, in 41 Tamka Street, in the baroque Ostroński Palace there is the state-of-the-art Fryderyk Chopin Museum.



So we'll start off on Pl. Trzech Krzyży, Warsaw's poshest shopping district. Translated to mean Three Crosses Square the name is something of an inaccuracy, and more eagle-eyed readers will be able to spot four crucifixes. The rotund looking church in the centre is that of St Alexander.

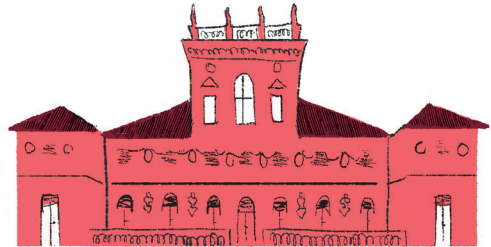
We'll walk through Belwederska Street, where exquisite tenement buildings, until Łazienki Park. There are many historic buildings, most notably the royal summer residence, the Palace on the Island, where numerous parties took place and the famous 'Thursdays dinners' were hosted.





Jazdów is one of Warsaw's oldest sites. It was here that a historic town was located, from which the Mazovian prince moved his court to the Old Town. Since 1981 the Centre for Contemporary Art – a culture institute and excellent gallery – has been based at the castle.

The rest of the journey will be a trip to Wilanów. It was the summer royal residence of the kings and the most distinguished aristocratic families. The palace and park are an important place of cultural events and concerts, and in the place of the former riding school, there is the Poster Museum.



Poster Museum on the Wilanów Palace has one of the largest collections of poster art in the world, numbering over 55,000 titles.



PRAGA DISTRICT

Praga, on the right bank of the river, wasn't damaged much during World War II but fell into disrepair in the postwar years. Recently, however, Praga has been enjoying a slow rejuvenation as artists and businesses move in, searching for cheaper real estate. As the location for the new National Stadium, more projects are underway to raise Praga's profile. Most explorations of the area are centered along Targowa and Żąbkowska streets. Across the street from the Orthodox Church is the Soviet War Memorial commemorating the soldiers who "liberated" Warsaw in 1945. St. Florian's Cathedral with its 75-meter towers dominates eastern Warsaw's Praga district and highlight the cathedral's role as a form of protest against the erstwhile Russian domination of Poland.

Reconstruction of the Cathedral was undertaken using bricks that were produced in the 9th century, to give the new church a sense of authenticity



TO GET LOST

Łazienki Park

Notable features amid the landscaped gardens include the art-deco Chopin monument (1926), the Palace on the Island (remodelled in 1792), an old orangery and a classicist amphitheatre loosely inspired by Herculaneum. The 74 hectare site originally served as the residence of Stanisław August Poniatowski - Poland's last monarch.

Saski Park

Opened to the public in 1727 Saski Park ranks as one of the oldest public parks in the world, and was originally designed in a 'French style', before being changed to follow English aesthetics in the 19th century. Originally part of the Saski Palace complex the park's highlights include a sundial dating from 1863 and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Although wrecked by Nazi miscreants in 1944 many of trees in the park survived.

Arkadia

In the deep south of the city and often overlooked. Founded in 1784 by Helena Radziwiłł the romantically landscaped park features a replica of Diana's Temple standing in the centre of a manmade lake. The Królikarnia Palace is the undisputed highlight and was completed in 1786 following plans laid out by Domenico Merlini – the chap responsible for the Palace on the Island.



POLISH CUISINE



Gotąbki

Boiled cabbage leaves stuffed with beef, onion and rice before being baked and served in a tomato or mushroom sauce.



Barszcz

A nourishing beetroot soup



Bigos

Ingredients usually include lots of cabbage, leftover meat parts and sausage, onion, mushrooms, garlic and whatever else is on hand



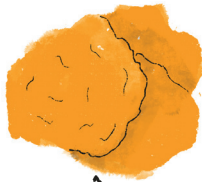
Kiełbasa

Sausages, and in Polish shops you'll find an enormous variety, made from everything from turkey to bison.



Smalec

Animal fat spread full of fried lard chunks and served with hunks of homemade bread



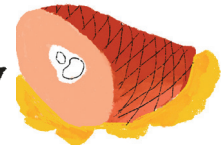
Placki

These greasy, fried potato pancakes are very similar to Jewish latkes and best enjoyed with goulash on top



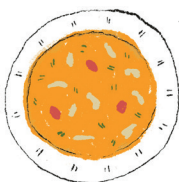
Żurek

Sour rye soup with sausage, potatoes and egg chucked in, often served in a bread bowl



Golonka

Pork knuckle or hock, as in pig's thigh - boiled, braised, or generally roasted



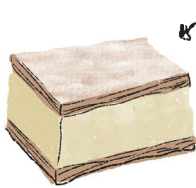
Flaki

Beef tripe soup enriched with veggies, herbs and spices



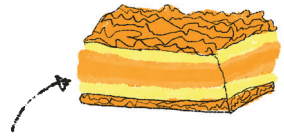
Pierogi

Doughy dumplings traditionally filled with potato, sweet cheese, meat, mushrooms and cabbage, strawberries or plum



Kremówka

A cream pie made of two thin layers of puff pastry filled with vanilla custard cream.



Szarlotka

Apple pie flavoured with cinnamon and cloves. Dense deep-fried with a drop of marmalade in the centre.

Pączki

Dense deep-fried with a drop of marmalade in the centre.



Pierniki

Polish gingerbread slightly soft, chewy and flavoured with honey, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, cardamom, nutmeg, anise and lavender



Sernik

Polish cheesecake made with a sweet curd cheese.

TASTY ALCOHOL



Goldwasser

A unique alchemic elixir characterised by the 22 karat gold flakes floating in it

Miód Pitny

Distilled from honey with a delicate, sweet taste

Krupnik

Sweet vodka made from honey and multitude of herbs

Grzane Wino

Polish hot mulled wine flavoured with orange and spices

MILK BARS

Milk bars are egalitarian diners where you can eat a portion of pierogi in thirty minutes or less, and they are popular with every social category. Milk bars are often considered a communist legacy, but in fact their existence predates the communist era.

Pierogi please! Such a yell announces milk bar patrons that their food is ready. In such places you order at a register and then wait at a table for your food to be prepared. Once your order is ready, it is placed on a counter separating the kitchen from the dining room. It is then announced loud and clear from behind the counter which dish is currently waiting to be collected. There are no waiters in milk bars. You bring your food to your table by yourself. So if you're sitting by a table waiting for the cucumber soup you just ordered, you'll want to get up to get your food from the counter once you hear the words "cucumber soup please!" spoken by somebody in the kitchen. As for the cutlery and napkins, you'll need to get them from special containers. Don't expect to have the table all to yourself. You might, but there's no telling. It also customary to sit with strangers if there are no free tables left.

In milk bars you can order chiefly traditional and ordinary Polish food like pierogi, tomato soup or cutlets. As the term milk bar suggests, dishes based on milk and dairy products play a special role in these menus. Pancakes with white cheese, leniwki (dumplings made from cheese, flour and eggs), milk soup and rice with fruit and cream are among the most popular dishes. The reassuring home cooking prepared by these establishments is one of the reasons for their lasting popularity. Milk bars are also appreciated because they're fast, cheap, unpretentious and serve fresh food without artificial additives.



Bar Rusatka - ul. Floriańska 14

Bar Bambino - ul. Krucza 21

Bar Mleczny Zabkowski - ul. Ząbkowska 2

Bar Mleczny Smetanka - Towarzyska ul. Twarda 56

Bar Mleczny Familijny - ul. Nowy Świat 39

For the cost of a few coins you can eat like an orphaned street urchin, albeit an extremely well-fed one



RESTAURANT

U Szwejka - Plac Konstytucji 1

Every day there is a special promotion, the most popular meal deal is the Monday giant schnitzel with fries and salad.

Pędzący Królik - Moliera 8

This is one and only place with a special character and charm. When you enter, you may start looking out for a rabbit or other fairy tale characters.

Zapiecek - ul. Freta 18

If you want to try various kinds of pierogi that's your place to go. You can mix them the way you want.

24 Słony - ul Piękna 11

The place offers variety of sznytka (open sandwich) in many variations. At the menu you will find almost 20 of them

Restauracja Ambasada - ul. Foksal 1

Fresh and beautifully presented options like lasagna raw or the almond and carrot burger.

Vege Miasto - Al. Solidarności 60a

A paradise for Warsaw's healthy eating, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free fanatics.



WARM UP DRINKING

F30 - Francuska 30

F30 and its colourful canopy made of umbrellas is one of the most recognizable spots on Saska Kępa

Emesen - ul. Pańska 3

Located in the Museum of Modern Art, is a spot where both baristas and people go when they want a good coffee.

Shabby Chic Coffee Bar - ul. Piwna 20/26

Apart from good coffee and light snacks you may enjoy the interior of old Warsaw apartment house.

Blikle Cafe - ul. Nowy Świat 33

A part of Warsaw folklore. This is where Charles De Gaulle used to come for his doughnuts.

Cafe Proźna - ul. Proźna 12,

Inside an historic building that is slowly being renovated. You'll be lucky to find a seat inside this narrow venue.

Same Fusy - 10, Nowomiejska

Very nice atmosphere and a wide variety of different teas



WHERE TO ENJOY A BEER

Bierhalle - ul. Nowy Świat 64

Warsaw's best beer served in a bi-level space filled with chunky woods, bare bricks and industrial flourishes.

Cud nad Wisłą - Bulwar Flotylli Wiślanej

After a rough winter trapped indoors, we embrace the chance to soak up the sun on a stack of pillows, or watch the choppy Vistula beneath twinkling lights in the evening.

Elephant Belgian Pub - ul. Freta 19

An absolute treasure trove of a bar with 22 beer taps pouring Belgian gold.

Cuda na Kiju - ul. Nowy Świat 6/12

Housed in the former communist party HQ, this 3 level bar hosts an impressive 16 taps pouring beers from around Poland and Europe.

Piw Paw - ul. Żurawia 32/34

57 tap beers and a wall of refrigerators stuffed to bursting with over 200 kinds of bottled beers may sound like you've died and gone to heaven.

Kufle i Kapsle - ul. Nowogrodzka 25

Twelve taps are on offer and the bottled beer selection has more variety than a Glaswegian glass recycling bin!

IF YOU'RE A NIGHT OWL

Ulubiona - Nowy Świat 27

If you want to try some good Polish vodka and experience the famous culture of drinking that's your place to visit! Just be careful as the shots are really cheap.

46 Warszawa Powiśle - Kruczkowskiego 3b

Loud and busy in the summer with lots of people crowded in front of the place. It used to be a tiny railway station and its cold and momentary character is still there.

SKWER - ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 60 a

It hosts concerts and also has created a nice atmosphere to listen to them.

48 BarKa - Skwer im. Tadeusza Kahla

Docked on the 512 km of the Vistula, it offers some of the best concerts and DJ sets in Warsaw.



After dark, Praga really shines. You'll find clubs on every corner



GOOD NIGHT

49 Warsaw Downtown Hostel - Wilcza 33

Great hostel in Warsaw Centrum area. The nightly activities were a great way to meet the other people in the hostel

Patchwork Design Hostel - ul. Chmielna 5/7

Amazing location, right in the centre of night life and lots of restaurants. Each floor has its own kitchen, which is great, but kind of prevents you from meeting as many people

Chmielna Guest House - Chmielna 13/12,

Chmielna has seven uniquely designed rooms, each with their own style and character, aptly named after specific cities. Private rooms from 25€

52 El hostel - Smocza 1

El hostel - a centrally located boutique hostel 'with a soul'. Ideally located - within easy reach by public transport, for drivers - free parking in front of the building.

Tatamka Hostel - Tamka Str 3

Perfect for anybody who is looking for a great, central location and wants to know what 'traditional Polish hospitality' really mean

MAP OF THE CITY CENTER

● Monuments and museums

- 1 - Rynek
- 2 - Pauline Church
- 3 - Fortress
- 4 - Royal Castle
- 5 - Sigmund column
- 6 - Franciscan Church
- 7 - Dominican Church
- 8 - Redemptorist Church
- 9 - Holy Cross Church
- 10 - Sigmund's Clock
- 11 - National Stadium
- 12 - Orthodox Church
- 13 - St. Florian Church
- 14 - Soviet War Memorial
- 15 - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- 16 - Museum of the History of Polish Jews
- 17 - Warsaw Rising Museum
- 18 - Nożyk Synagogue
- 19 - National Museum
- 20 - Palace of Culture and Science

● Restaurants and Milk bars

- 21 - U Szwajka
- 22 - Pędzący Królik
- 23 - Zapiecek
- 24 - Pędzący Królik
- 25 - Restauracja Ambasada
- 26 - Vege Miasto
- 27 - Bar Mleczny Rusatka
- 28 - Bar Mleczny Bambino
- 29 - Bar Mleczny Zabłowski
- 30 - Bar Mleczny Smietanka Towarzyska
- 31 - Bar Mleczny Familijny

● Cafes and pubs

- 32 - Blike Cafe
- 33 - Cafe Prozna
- 34 - Same Fusy
- 35 - F30
- 36 - Raw Day
- 37 - Emesen
- 38 - Shabbt Chic Coffe
- 39 - Bierhalle
- 40 - Cud nad Wisłą
- 41 - Elephant Belgian Pub
- 42 - Cuda na Kiju
- 43 - Piw Paw
- 44 - Kufle i Kapsle

● Nightlife

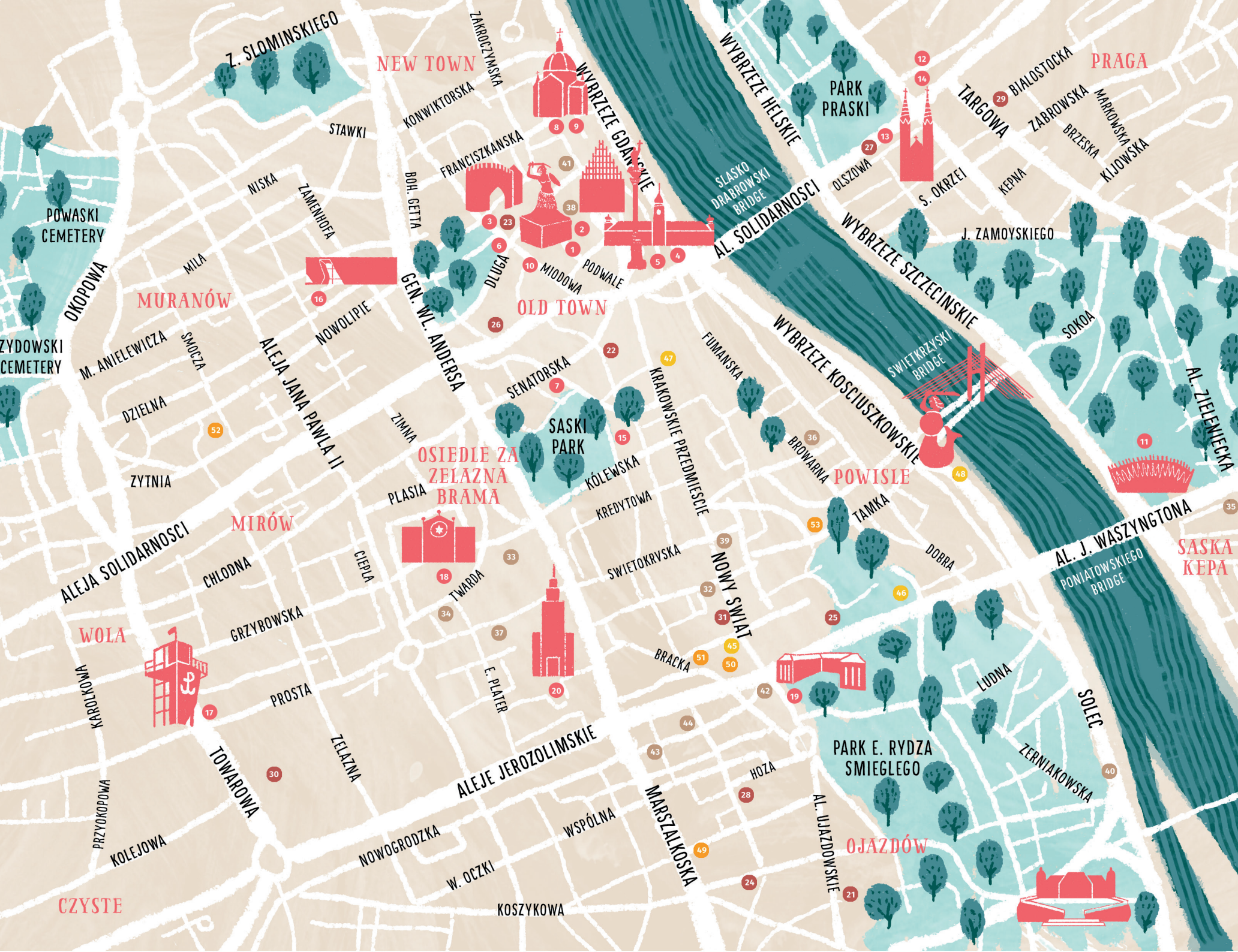
- 45 - Ulubiona
- 46 - Warszawa Powiśle
- 47 - Skwer
- 48 - Barka

● Hostels

- 49 - Warsaw Downtown Hostel
- 50 - Parchwork Design Hostel
- 51 - Chmielna Guest House
- 52 - El hostel
- 53 - Tatamka Hostel

You can find more info
on www.letszipierogi.com





NEW TOWN
Z. SŁOMIŃSKIEGO
STAWKI
KONWIKTORSKA
FRANCISZKANSKA
BOH. GĘTŁA
MIDOWA
PODWALE
DLUGA
DŁUGA
GEN. WŁ. ANDERSA
SENATORSKA
KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE
FUMANSKA
BROWARNA
TAMKA
DOBRA
SOLEC
ZERNIAKOWSKA
WSPÓLNA
MARSZAŁKOWSKA
HOZA
AL. JERUZOLIMSKIE
W. OCZKI
KOSZYKOWA
NOWOGRODZKA
WSPÓLNA
ALEJE JERUZOLIMSKIE
PROSTA
ZELAZNA
TOWAROWA
CZYSTE

OLD TOWN
WYBRZEŻE GDAŃSKIE
WYBRZEŻE HELSKIE
WYBRZEŻE SZCZECIŃSKIE
WYBRZEŻE KOSCIUSZKOWSKIE
AL. SOLIDARNOSCI
AL. WASZYNGTONA

MURANÓW
M. ANIELEWICZA
SMOCZA
DZIELNA
ZYTŃIA
ALEJA SOLIDARNOSCI
CHŁODNA
GRZYBOWSKA
WOLA

MIRÓW
MIRÓW
MIRÓW

OSIEDLE ZA ŻELAZNĄ BRAMĄ
PLASZA
CIERŁA
TWARDA
E. PLATER

WOLA
WOLA

OSIEDLE ZA ŻELAZNĄ BRAMĄ
OSIEDLE ZA ŻELAZNĄ BRAMĄ

POWISŁE
POWISŁE

POWISŁE
POWISŁE

OJAZDÓW
OJAZDÓW

PRAGA
PRAGA
BIALOSTOCKA
ZABROWSKA
BRZESKA
KIJOWSKA
MAROKNA
KŁOJSKA
TARGOWA
KEPNA
S. OKRZEI
J. ZAMOYSKIEGO
SOKOA
AL. ZIELEŃCIEKA

WOLA
WOLA

POWISŁE
POWISŁE

OJAZDÓW
OJAZDÓW

POWASKI CEMETERY

ZYDOWSKI CEMETERY

PARK PRASKI

SASKI PARK

PARK E. RYDZA SMIEGŁEGO

CZYSTE

MURANÓW

OSIEDLE ZA ŻELAZNĄ BRAMĄ

POWISŁE

OJAZDÓW

NEW TOWN

OLD TOWN

PRAGA

Do widzenia!

