



Your
personal
guide
to Warsaw

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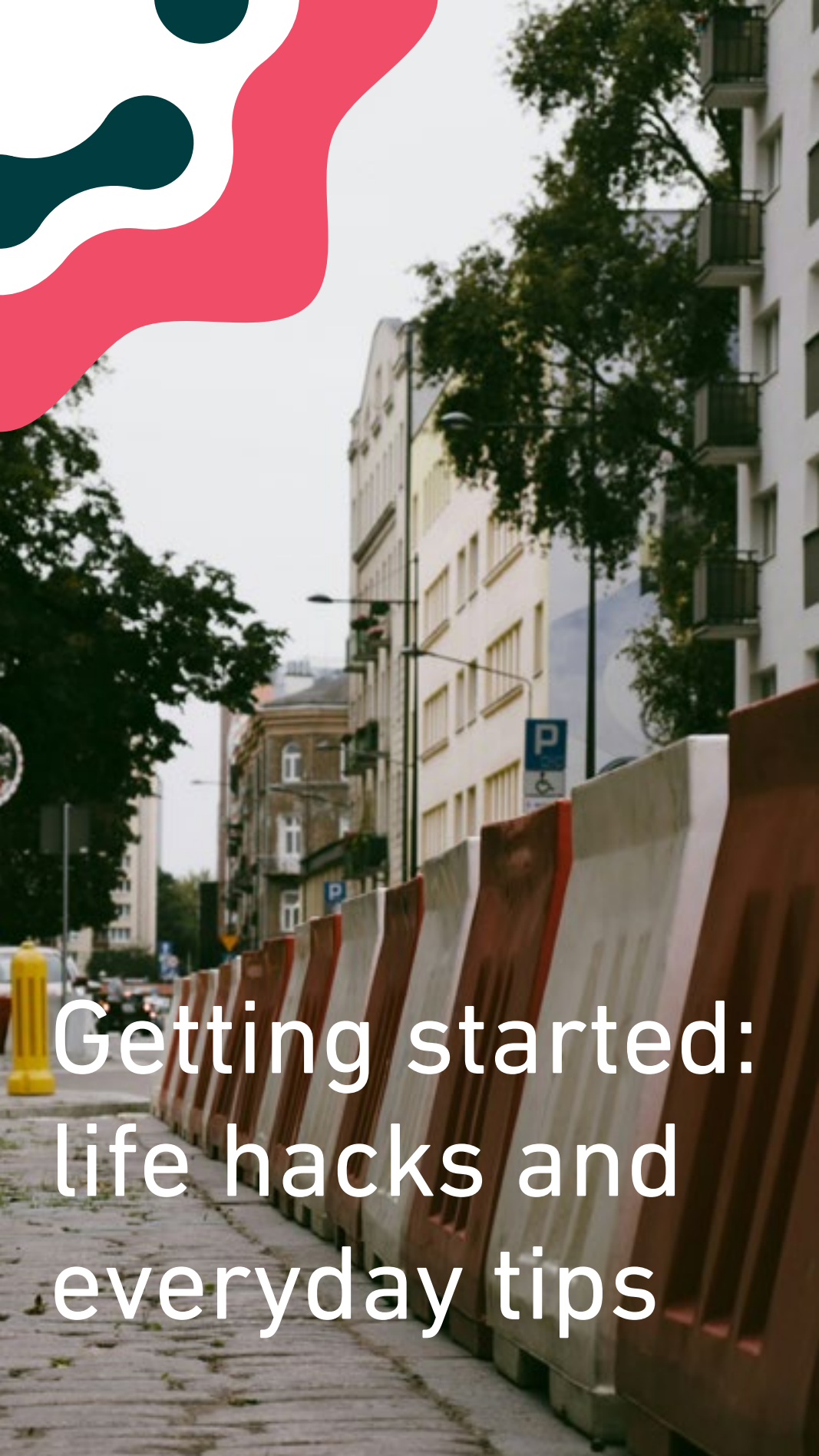
Dear Semiofest participant, welcome to Warsaw!

We have prepared this simple guide to make your travel and stay as stress free as possible. Warsaw is a safe and clean city, easy to commute and there are several accommodation options in the very same neighbourhood our conference venue is located.

If you have any more questions – don't hesitate to reach out to us at warsaw@semiofest.com

Enjoy Poland!

Paulina, Maciej, Marcin, Ania and Anna
Semiofest Warsaw 2026 Team



Getting started:
life hacks and
everyday tips



In general, not speaking Polish should not be a problem in Warsaw, especially with the younger generation and waitstaff. In many places frequented by tourists you will find menus in English, as well as bilingual way finding and signs across the city.

Sunday shopping ban means that all larger grocery stores and retail shops are closed so be sure to stock up ahead of time. Cinemas, pharmacies and cafes are exempt from the Sunday ban.



Tip:

whenever entering a store, always greet everyone with “dzień dobry” (pronounced Jayn DOH-brih) and exit with a “thank you” - dziękuję (pronounced jen-KOO-yeh)

The convenience store chain Żabka is open on Sundays. Known for its hot dogs, innovation (Żabka nano is an unmanned format with no cashiers) and ubiquity across Poland, it has a near-cult presence on many foreigners' TikTok's. It even gave its name to the pidgin-dialect consisting of purely the most necessary phrases while shopping: Żabka polish.



Polish currency is PLN / zloty. 1 zloty is the equivalent of ~25 euro cents. Paying with Apple Pay, Google wallet, card, phone or other device (watch, ring) is easy and there is no need to use cash. Although, cash will be useful in small grocery stalls or farmers' markets (sales people don't usually use payment terminals there).

If you want to withdraw, an ATM is called a "bankomat".

Tipping in cafes and restaurants is optional, but 10-15% for good service is a nice gesture.



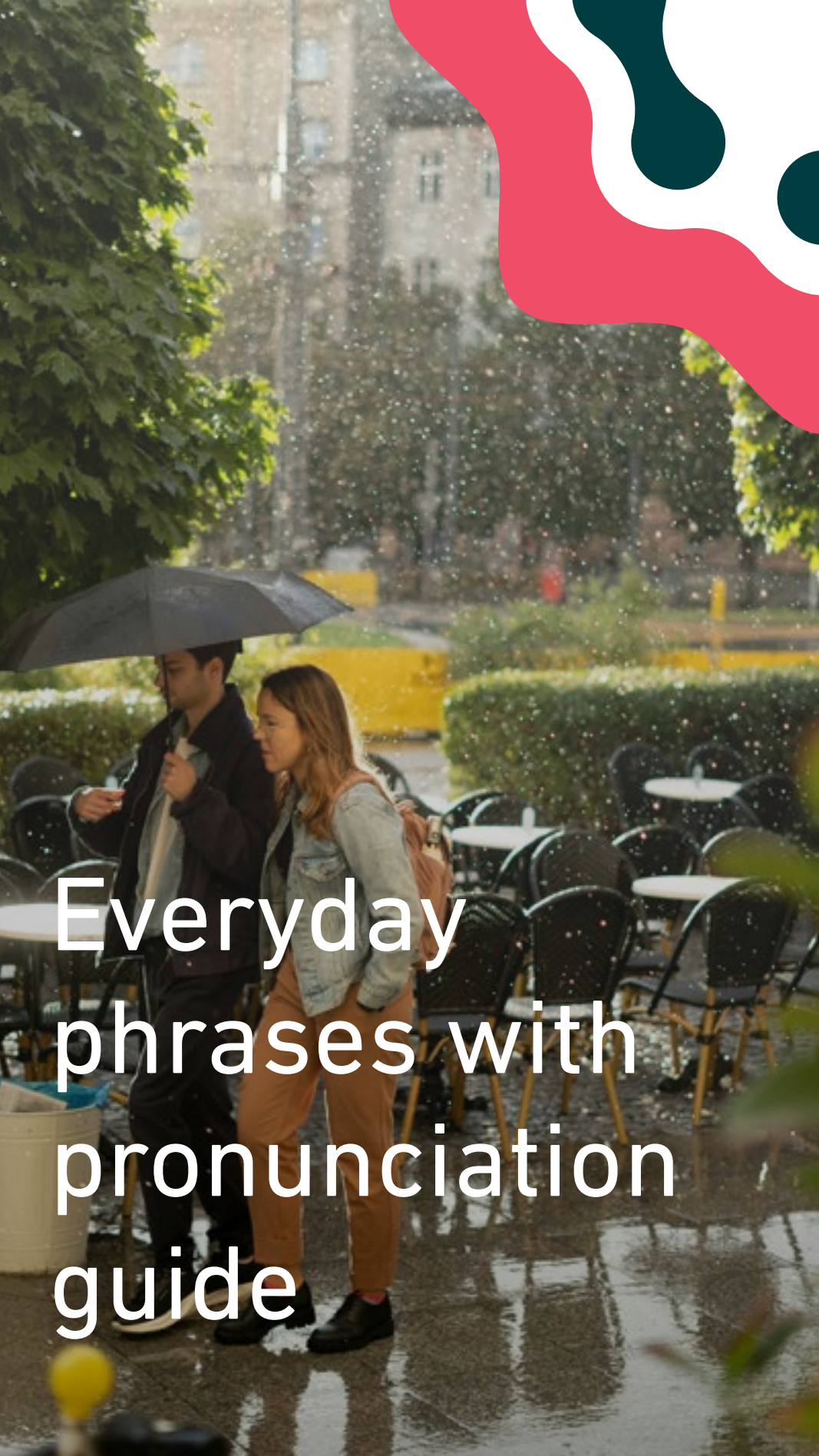
There is no such thing as “pierogis”! “Pierogi” is already a plural of “pieróg”. You can order this Polish speciality for example in “bar mleczny” (milk bar), e.g. Bar Prasowy (Marszałkowska 10/16), alongside many other affordable comfort classics.

Think of it as a nostalgic cafeteria after a facelift. Interestingly, milk bars do not serve milk nor alcohol.



There are many vegetarian and vegan options in Warsaw, including vegan take on sushi (for example, Vegan Sushi Bar), ramen (for example, Vegan Ramen Shop), polish and international cuisine (for example, Lokal Vegan Bistro, Bistro Spatif, Wege Miasto, Mango Vegan Street Food, Veganda, la Vegana) or burritos (for example, Momencik). Requesting a gluten free option should also not be an issue in most places.

Tap water is safe to drink, its quality is constantly checked by a sophisticated monitoring system including a team of clams (yes, this is true).



Everyday phrases with pronunciation guide

DZIĘKUJĘ – jen-KOO-yeh – thank you.

PROSZĘ – PROH-sheh – in general, it means “please”, but it can mean much more. **Proszę** can be used as: **there you go** or **here you are** – when handing something requested; as go ahead when you let someone **go ahead** of you – in a doorway, etc, as **not at all, no problem** – when someone says “thank you” and you answer “proszę”; and a few more, but you get the idea.

DZIEŃ DOBRY – jane DOH-brih – good morning.

DO WIDZENIA – doh vee-DZEN-ya – goodbye.

CZEŚĆ – cheshch – hello.

PRZEPRASZAM – psheh-PRAH-shahm – excuse me, I’m sorry.

TAK – tahk – yes

NIE – nyeh – no

NIE ROZUMIEM – nyeh roh-ZOO-myem – I don’t understand.

NA ZDROWIE – nah ZDROH-vyeh – cheers, bless you (used both as a toast and when someone sneezes)



How to get to Warsaw: travel information

Airports

Flights to Warsaw Chopin Airport (IATA code:WAW)

<https://lotnisko-chopina.pl/en/index.html>

Access via public transport: <https://lotnisko-chopina.pl/en/public-transport.html>

Additional assistance: <https://lotnisko-chopina.pl/en/prm-assistance.html>

The easiest way to get from Warsaw Chopin Airport to the city centre is to take a taxi from an official airport taxi stand. You can take a regular taxi or Uber / Bolt car from there. This should be a cost of about 10 €. Use only official Airport taxi stand not to get scammed.

Flights to Modlin Airport Mazowiecki Port Lotniczy (IATA code: WMI)

<https://en.modlinairport.pl/>

Access via public transport:<https://en.modlinairport.pl/page/train#>

Additional assistance: <https://en.modlinairport.pl/page/disabled-passengers-prm>

Modlin Airport is 40 km away from the Warsaw city centre. The easiest way to get from Modlin Airport is to take a shuttle. There are multiple private companies that provide transportation services to the city centre. You can buy tickets by the stall located by the airport's exit, directly from the driver, or via each providers' apps. The bus stops are just in front of the airport (there is one exit so you won't get lost).

Visa information

Visa to Poland: <https://www.gov.pl/web/uae/visas>

List of countries whose citizens are required to have visas when entering Poland: [https:// www.gov.pl/web/uae/list-of-countries-whose-citizens-are-required-to-have-visas-when-entering-poland](https://www.gov.pl/web/uae/list-of-countries-whose-citizens-are-required-to-have-visas-when-entering-poland)

If you need a special invitation letter to enter EU, please contact us via warsaw@semiofest.com



Semiofest
Warsaw 2026
venue location



TEATR KOMUNA WARSZAWA

Emilii Plater 31 street (corner of Nowogrodzka)
00-688 Warszawa

<https://komuna.warszawa.pl/en/>

Directions:


<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uwaaeMtngpGpawrE6>

Central Railway Station is the closest public bus, train, tram station.

Centrum is the closest Metro station.

The building is located at the back of the Warsaw Presidential Hotel (former Marriott Hotel).

[Learn more about the venue on our website.](#)



Where to stay in Warsaw: accommodation options



Warsaw offers comfortable accommodation options across a wide range of budgets. Airbnb and Booking.com have plenty of listings, including many homes close to the venue.

You can also use Booking.com to compare hotels and find the best deals.

Best quarter to look for apartments close to the venue is located between 4 streets:

Jerozolimskie Avenue; Marszałkowska Street (you may want to avoid apartments directly on these two streets, as they can be quite busy with traffic), **Koszykowa Street** and **Emilii Plater Street**.



Near the venue (2- 20 walking distance)

€ Budget

Warsaw Hostel Centrum

Address: Emilii Plater 36A

Hostel atmosphere, casual vibe, shared facilities

€€ Mid-range

Hampton by Hilton Warsaw City Centre

Address: Wspólna 72

Modern Hilton standard, good value

Novotel Warszawa Centrum

Address: Marszałkowska 94/98

Classic conference choice

Hotel MDM City Centre

Address: Plac Konstytucji 1

Socialist realist icon

Hotel Metropol

Address: Marszałkowska 99A

Right in the city centre

Mercure Warszawa Grand

Address: Krucza 28

Solid 4-star Accor standard

Mercure Warszawa Centrum

Address: Złota 48/54

Adjacent to Złote Tarasy shopping mall

€€€ Upscale

Warsaw Presidential Hotel

Address: Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79

First Western luxury hotel in Poland after 1989

Hotel Polonia Palace

Address: Al. Jerozolimskie 45

Parisian-style building from early 20th century

H15 Boutique Hotel

Address: Poznańska 15

Member of Design Hotels

InterContinental Warszawa

Address: Emilii Plater 49

43rd floor pool with panoramic views

Nobu Hotel Warsaw

Address: Wilcza 73

Luxury art-deco boutique hotel

Puro Warszawa Centrum

Address: Widok 9

Designer hotel in the strict city centre



Near Old Town or Vistula River (over 20-minute walking distance)

€€ Mid-range

Flaner Hotel

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 4

Boutique newcomer named after the art of urban wandering

Tiffi Old Town Hotel

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 7

Interwar-inspired boutique hotel, steps from the Royal Route, Presidential Palace and University

€€€ Upscale

PURO Warszawa Stare Miasto

Address: Canaletta 4

Design-forward minimalism meets medieval surroundings

Barcelo Warsaw Powiśle

Address: Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 43A

Riverside lifestyle hotel in Warsaw's popular neighbourhood

Hotel Indigo Warsaw Nowy Świat

Address: Smolna 40

1903 courtyard building, art-filled boutique

Sofitel Warsaw Victoria

Address: Królewska 11

Communist-era luxury built to impress foreign dignitaries

Hotel Bellotto

Address: Senatorska 13/15

Named after the painter who documented Warsaw before its destruction



Mamaison Hotel Le Regina

Address: Kościelna 12

Baroque palace turned old town boutique retreat

€€€€ Luxury

Hotel Warszawa

Address: Powstańców Warszawy 9

Pre WWII skyscraper, rebuilt as beautiful hotel

Raffles Europejski Warsaw

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 13

Warsaw's oldest grand hotel.

Hotel Bristol

Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44

1901 Royal Route icon, Art Nouveau masterpiece



How to get
around the city:
transport and
mobility



Public transportation system

Public transport in Warsaw is safe, clean, inexpensive and reliable. Sometimes it gets crowded.

There is a one ticket system for the whole public transport.



Metro

It is simple to move around with Metro as there are two lines - M1 which is the main one and goes along Vistula river and M2 which goes across the river. Best to travel quickly for longer distances.


On weekdays, trains run every 4-5 minutes from 05:00 until 00:12. On weekends, the rhythm slows slightly to every 9-10 minutes. If you're out late on Friday or Saturday night, the metro keeps going until 03:00, with trains every 15 minutes. The central stops to keep in mind are; for M1 - **Centrum** (the nearest stop to the venue), **Świętokrzyska**, **Politechnika**, and **Ratusz Arsenał** - and for M2 - **Świętokrzyska**, **Nowy Świat-Uniwersytet**, **Centrum Nauki Kopernik**.

Trams and Busses

For shorter distances, buses and trams are the best option. There is a very dense network of those in the city. The stop which is nearest to the venue is **Dworzec Centralny / Central Railway Station**.

You can buy tickets directly on board using your card at the vending machines. For the metro, make sure to get your ticket before entering the platform. Look for machines like these:





JakDojade is a useful and easy to use tool for **planning your commute and buying tickets** - available as app for both Android and iPhone
www.jakdojade.pl



For more details, visit the Warsaw Public Transport website <https://www.wtp.waw.pl/en/>

Taxi services

Uber, Bolt and FreeNow are the most popular services to move around by car, just use their standard apps.

An equally convenient way for non Polish speakers is using an app such as <https://www.itaxi.pl/en/>

There are also plenty of taxi services, and locals would usually call for one. Feel free to try this too and ask for an English speaker at the switchboard. You may not always get one, but it's worth a try!

ELE Taxi

<https://eletaxi.pl/>

+48 22 811 11 11

Sawa Taxi

www.sawataxi.com.pl

+48 22 644 44 44



Other transport options

The shared bike service is called **Veturilo***, has over 300 stations and the first 20 minutes of each ride are free. You can download **Veturilo app** for both Android and iPhone.

***Veturilo means vehicle in Esperanto - a universal language constructed in late 19th century by Dr. Ludwik Zamenhof, a polish ophthalmologist.**

Another popular way to get around is by electric scooter. Bolt or Lime offers a fleet you can pick up almost anywhere in the city. Not for the faint of heart, but definitely for the adventurous. You can download Bolt or Lime app for both Android and iPhone



Warsaw attractions



Warsaw is no longer the grey city of the past. Combining elements of both East and West, this is a town of complex character and hidden appeal. The dark, negative images of yesteryear 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.



In May, you can head down to Warsaw's riverside and you'll find that Warsaw has modernised and improved its left bank dramatically in the last decade. The Vistula river boulevards (Bulwary Wiślane) flanking the Świętokrzyski Bridge and leading north to the [Old Town](#) have seen the most development and are now not only a popular thoroughfare for walking, running, cycling and skating, but also brimming with bars, cafes and restaurants, plus parks and leisure spaces.



The area just north of the bridge has also become a cultural corridor and tourist lure thanks to a clutch of top attractions: the [Copernicus Science Centre](#), [Dance Pavilion](#) and the [University Library Gardens](#) (open April to October), as well as the Multimedia Fountain Park further north. It's fair to say that Warsaw's river boulevards are now among the best in Europe and as endemic to the identity and character of the capital as those in London or Paris, so don't miss having a stroll along the water while in town.



And if you're lucky with the weather, here's a little gem: every Sunday at noon and 4 p.m., you can catch free Chopin piano concerts in Łazienki Królewskie Park (say it like "wah-zhen-kee"). It's one of those experiences that feels almost mandatory for all visitors and is also totally local.



More information about gastronomy, indoor and outdoor activities and things to see:

<https://www.inyourpocket.com/warsaw-about>

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/poland/warsaw/attractions>

This website gathers all interesting events month by month:

<https://www.myguidewarsaw.com/events/may-2026>



Tour guides

If you prefer to explore Warsaw accompanied by a professional guide, we can suggest two options.

You can contact our friend, a licensed and experienced Warsaw guide, whom we can wholeheartedly recommend:

s.urlik@outlook.com

+48 515 219 078

Sebastian offers tours in English, German, French, Spanish and Russian. And Polish, of course.

Another acquainted guide is Kike - Spanish-English speaking local in Warsaw.

Kike is a passionate Spanish-speaking guide. His personalized walking tours bring the city's history, culture, and hidden gems to life – from the Old Town and Royal Route to lesser-known spots. Expect vivid stories, smart insights, and practical tips that help you connect with Warsaw beyond the guidebook.

Available for group tours, event experiences, and customized walks that fit your schedule and interests.

viajeskikeski@gmail.com

+48 739 985 781



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WARSAW 2026

MAY 20-23 2026

See You in
Warsaw!

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