



Mazovia & Podlasie

POP 6 MILLION

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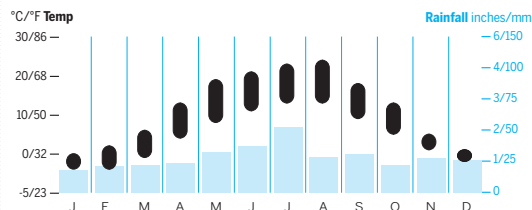
Why Go?

The rolling landscape and rural bliss of Mazovia (Mazowsze in Polish) have a deceptively long history, but the signs are easy to spot if you know where to look. Once a duchy, this province is dotted with castles, cathedrals and palaces, the biggest of which reside in the riverside towns of Płock and Pułtusk. Łódź is Mazovia's reigning capital, with more going for it than meets the eye. It's the country's third-largest metropolis and could easily win 'Poland's Ugliest City' award, but if you take the time to discover its charms, you'll be happy you did.

Podlasie is the verdant green lungs of Poland. Aside from a few patches of urbanisation, this province is a paradise of farmland, forest and lakes. Its four national parks are splendid: Narew and Biebrza for their marshlands; Wigry for its lakes; and Białowieża for its primeval forest and king of Polish fauna, the bison.

When to Go

Łódź



May-Jun

Celebrate spring amid the lush primeval greenery of Białowieża National Park.

Jul-Aug

Enjoy the warm weather while kayaking in and around the Augustów Canal.

Sep

Łódź celebrates the 'Four Cultures' (Polish, Russian, Jewish, German) festival.



Mazovia & Podlasie Highlights

1 Marvelling at the ugly streets and hidden gems of **Łódź** (p82)

2 Harking back to a time when romance was all the rage at **Arkadia & Nieborów** (p91)

3 Wondering how **Płock** (p91) got hold of so many Art Nouveau treasures

4 Exploring the last remnants of Poland's Tatar culture at **Kruszyniany & Bohoniki** (p101)

5 Searching primeval forest for a glimpse of the rare European bison at **Białowieża National Park** (p102)

6 Relaxing the mind and exercising the body kayaking

the Rospuda and Czarna Hańcza in the **Augustów-Suwałki region** (p105)

7 Catching your breath as the sun breaks through the clouds to reveal the stunning scenery of the **Suwałki Landscape Park** (p111)